



This time of year the plight of the homeless is always at the forefront of the social consciousness. A Chart reporter takes an insider's view ...page 16

MEN'S ATHLETICS

College ousts football coaches

By NICK PARKER
MANAGING EDITOR

Still in the process of searching for a new head football coach, Missouri Southern sent a letter of termination to interim head coach Rob Green Wednesday.

Green was appointed to the interim position by Jim Frazier, men's athletic director, after head coach Jon Lantz resigned midway through the 1997 season. Under Green, Southern won its final four games of the season to finish 7-3 overall.



Green

Green came to Southern in 1993 after serving as head coach and athletic director at Putnam City West High School in Oklahoma City.

Green said he had not been given an interview after applying for the position.

"I was told that I was the third man on the totem pole," he said. "Because of that, I was told not to apply. And then I found out something different."

"About a week ago, our administration informed me I was going to get a letter of termination. I received the letter today (Wednesday)."



Lantz

Frazier was unavailable for comment on Wednesday.

Lantz also received a letter of termination Wednesday, but declined comment.

Green said he was disappointed he was not given the opportunity to interview with the football search committee.

"I've always said I want to be the next head coach here," Green said. "I was told I would at least be the assistant coach here."

"All I've ever said is I'm a Missouri Southern Lion through and through, and if I'm not good enough for the job, I still want to work here."

Junior quarterback Brad Cornelsen said Green will be missed on the sidelines.

"He's probably the main reason I came here to Southern," Cornelsen said. "I've been quite successful here. I don't think I

would have wanted to play for anyone else.

"I felt like he would have at least been given a shot at it after going 4-0. On the other hand, I think they'll do what they think is best for the program. It was kind of my feeling that coming off a big win over a good team (Truman State) and going undefeated he would have had one (an interview). Especially with everybody playing well and responding to him he would have had a shot."

Defensive coordinator Kenny Evans may also receive a letter of termination. Evans came to Southern in 1989 as defensive coordinator after serving under Lantz in the same position at Southeastern Oklahoma State University.

TURN TO COACHES, PAGE 13

ADMISSIONS

New legislation opens avenues for armed forces

By TAMMY SPICER
EXECUTIVE EDITOR

When Missouri Southern students answer their phones, it may be someone wanting to recruit them into the armed forces. Their name could have been pulled from a list provided by the College.

"At the College, our policy is that we normally don't provide that type of information to outside sources," said Derek Skaggs, director of enrollment services. "Later on we found out that we basically had to provide them with the information."

The reason Southern must now provide military recruiters with student information is because of a little-known legal rule called the Solomon Amendment. The amendment prohibits denying military recruiters entry to campus, access to students on campus, access to directory information on students, or having an anti-Reserve Officer Training Corps policy, according to a legal update supplied by Kathleen Murphy Markie, counsel for the University of Missouri.

"Whenever someone makes a request of the College, it must be in writing," Skaggs said. "And those requests are automatically routed through Dr. [John] Tiede (senior vice president) so that we do our job in protecting the rights of the students."

Information that must be released under the heading of directory information includes name, address, telephone listing, date and place of birth, level of education, academic major, degrees received, and educational institution in which the student was most recently enrolled. The College must release information only for students currently enrolled at Southern.

"The best outlets for recruiters are high schools and colleges," said Capt. Daniel Hatcher, recruiting and retention manager for the Missouri National Guard. "While it is a definite plus for us to have access to the names of college students, we only use cold calling as a last-ditch effort."

Southern has received only a couple of requests for directory information since it has been aware of the Solomon Amendment, Tiede said.

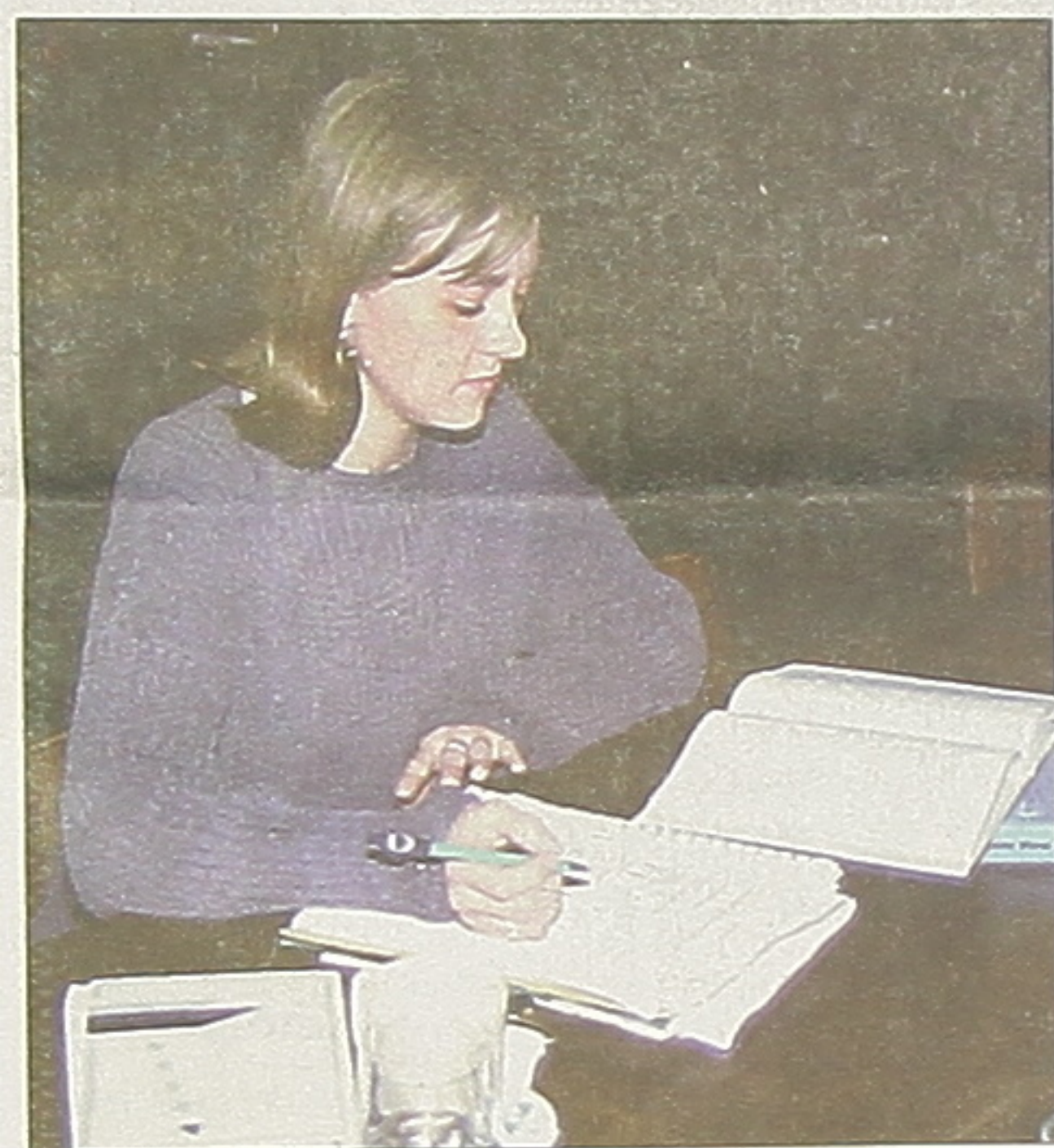
"I don't think it is such big deal," said William Snelson, junior computer science major. "Guys have to register for the draft when we turn 18, so it doesn't really affect us. And women want equal rights, so what difference does it make?"

Any Southern student who does not want his or her directory information released should submit a request to the registrar's office. A new form must be filed each academic year, Skaggs said, referring to page 12 of the College's spring schedule. □

STUDENT LIFE BEAT

With finals steadily approaching, many students mix their late-night craves with a little studying as they are ...

Hungry for knowledge



AARON DESLATTÉ/The Chart

Filling the needs for food and study, Stephanie Reneau, sophomore undecided major, hits the books and java at the Denny's in Joplin.

By AARON DESLATTÉ
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Card catalogs, reference guides, and other traditional tools of educational exploration may be losing popularity to caffeine and the Mega-Melt Slam.

With final examinations looming near, an increasing number of Missouri Southern students are changing their studying scenery to a less likely locale.

Libraries, homerooms, and other more orthodox study sites are receiving increasingly stiff competition from all-night eating establishments as the study location of choice for high school and college students. The calm serenity of library quiet rooms is being replaced by the hustle and bustle of 24-hour coffee shops.

"It's a very common occurrence to see students out here studying, especially during the week," said Patricia Krein, unit manager of Denny's Restaurant in Joplin.

Krein, a 15-year Denny's employee, says on a typical evening shift the restaurant will serve an average of 250 customers, a majority of whom are high school or college students.

Student LifeBeat



These special feature stories are designed specifically for you, the student. If you have story suggestions please call 685-9311.

"A lot of the high school seniors from last year started studying out here and have continued to do so after starting college," Krein said.

"We know a lot of the students' names. We know what they like to drink and cater to them a little bit."

Denny's Restaurant, which opened its Joplin location in 1971, has seen students increase exponentially in the last several years.

"There have been more students coming out for the last 10 years," she said. "But it's really picked up in the last couple [years]."

However, Denny's Restaurant is not the only all-night eating establishment to reap benefits from the trend. Chris Veach, district manager of Steak & Shake Restaurant, says his establishment has seen a growing number of customers with class work as well.

"Every week we have college and high school students come in to study," Veach said.

Thomas Tobler, a freshman economics major at Southern, is a self-proclaimed coffee shop junkie.

"I come here every night," Tobler said of Denny's. "I stay up all night, anyway."

While Tobler seldom frequents all-night diners with homework on his agenda, he admits the student population is growing.

"Probably 30 percent of the people in here are studying for something," he said.

Tobler says peak coffee shop study hours are 10 p.m. to 4 a.m.

"Usually, after 4 a.m. it gets pretty dull." □

COMMENCEMENT

No pomp for winter grads

By AILEEN GRONEWOLD
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Instead of the traditional formal spring ceremony, December graduates can make their exit with a Polaroid version of all the pomp and circumstance. A reception honoring the approximately 250 graduates will be held at 2 p.m. Saturday in the Billingsly Student Center lounge.

Many December grads return for the formal ceremony in May, but the reception is the only hoorah for those who cannot.

"A lot of students like the idea of coming and going quickly," said Doug Carnahan, dean of students. "It's big bing, shake the president's hand, have a cookie, and you're out of there."

Graduates may invite as many friends and family as they like for the reception, whereas

TURN TO GRADUATION, PAGE 13

INSTITUTE OF INTERNATIONAL STUDIES

Southern signs agreement with Fachhochschule

Partnership calls for joint degrees, student travel with German university

By NICK PARKER
MANAGING EDITOR

Completing a process that started last spring, Missouri Southern signed an agreement of cooperation with a developing new university in Ansbach, Germany, on Nov. 28.

Richard Massa, director of the Institute of International Studies, brought the agreement, signed by College President Julio Leon, to Fachhochschule Ansbach. Accompanying Massa were Dr. Maryann Weber and Dr. Chad Stebbins, associate professors of communications.

Signing the agreement for Fachhochschule were Dr. Bernhard Kramer, president, and Dr. Eric Bauer, coordinator for international exchanges.

The agreement will provide for future exchanges of students and faculty and

the development of cooperative international programs between Southern and Ansbach.

"This is an ongoing project, a project that never ends," Massa said. "The Institute will always be looking for new partners and new friends."

"We have agreed that we will be developing student and faculty exchanges. We will also work for the development of mutually beneficial programs. We may develop joint degrees where a student will study at both institutions. What we signed was a general agreement to let these discussions go forth."

Fachhochschule Ansbach, currently in its third semester of operation, has an enrollment of 250. It plans to have 500 students next year and 1,000 within three years.

"The German philosophy now is to create smaller institutions that specialize in specific areas," Stebbins said. "Nuremberg is nearby and has a school of economics with 10,000 students, but that is considered excessive. Ansbach plans to limit its classes to 20 or 25 students."



DR. MARYANN WEBER/Special to The Chart

Richard Massa (left), director of the Institute of International Studies, shared coffee with the mayor of Ansbach, the city's lord high mayor, and Dr. Bernhard Kramer, president of Fachhochschule Ansbach, following the signing of a cooperative agreement between Missouri Southern and the German school on Nov. 28.

Dr. Erik Bitterbaum, vice president for academic affairs, said the agreement will open new avenues for Southern students to travel and study abroad.

He also said the future exchange

programs will be modeled after an already successful student exchange program.

TURN TO INSTITUTE, PAGE 13

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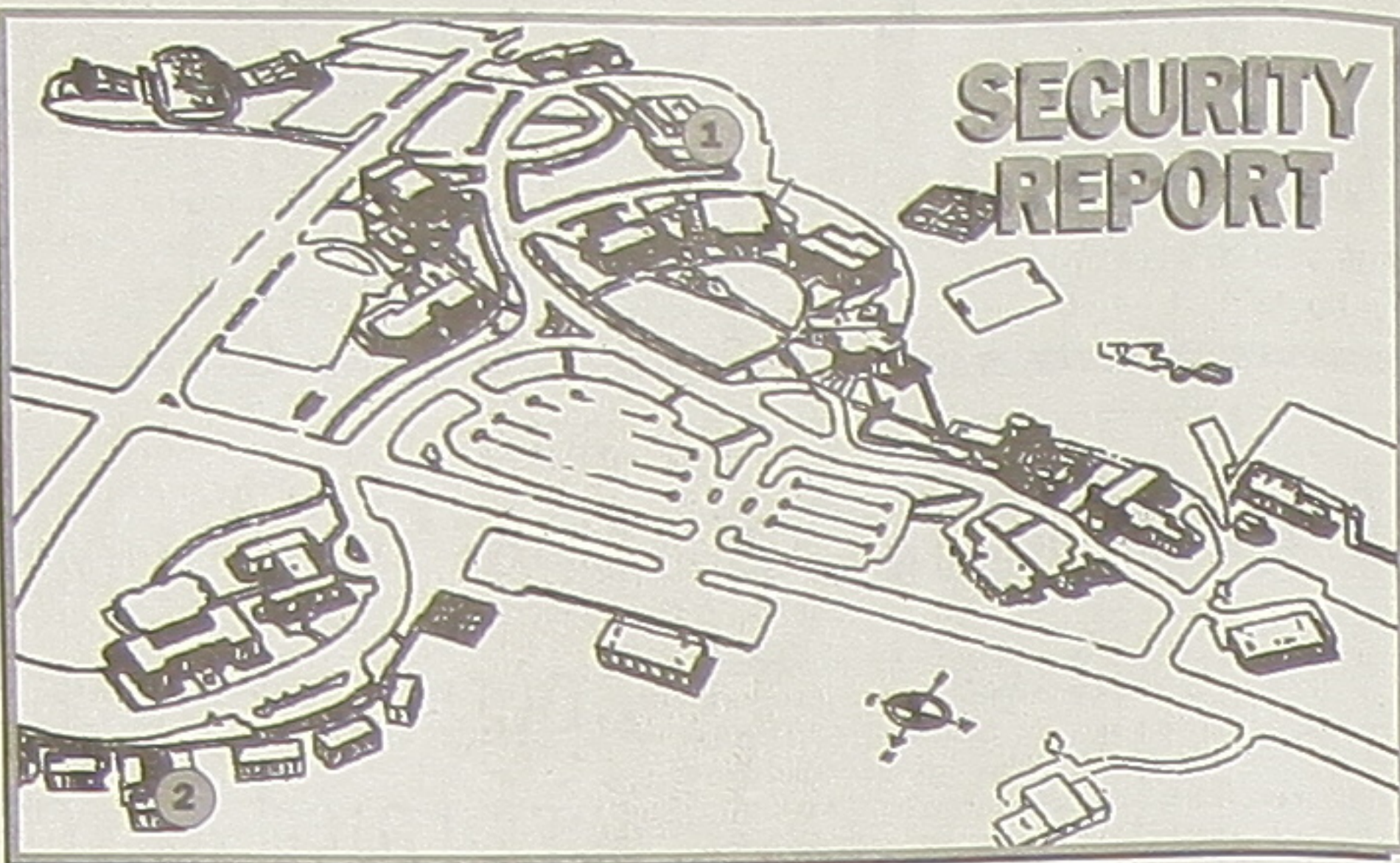
IN THE SPOTLIGHT:

Missouri Southern prepares itself for the Christmas season by singing carols and decking the halls with holly and many other festive creations...page 11



SPORTS:

Busying herself with three different athletic seasons at Southern wasn't enough for distance runner Sonia Blacketer, she now is preparing for a run down the altar.....page 14

SECURITY
REPORT

- 1 12/04/97 Lot #10 10 a.m. After a student report, an officer responded to a hit and run accident in lot 10. The car hit was owned by Dr. Michael Garoutte, assistant professor of chemistry. The eyewitness and an anonymous caller identified the vehicle that struck his car as a yellowish pick-up truck. Garoutte was advised to contact the Joplin Police Department.
- 2 12/01/97 Stone Hall 1 a.m. Garrett Brooks, junior criminal justice administration major, advised security that he had a service pistol in his room in a locked box for safety. Brooks said he had permission for the firearm from Deb Gipson, coordinator for student housing.

ARTS AND SCIENCES

College remembers dean

By DEBORAH SOLOMON
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

With the death of Dr. Harold "Mac" Cooper, 79, on Thanksgiving, Missouri Southern lost one of its pioneering instructors and administrators. Cooper came to the College in 1968 as a professor of history and head of the social science division. Dr. Floyd Belk, former vice president for academic affairs, recalled when Cooper was hired.



Cooper

"Dr. Cooper was from Nebraska, and when we hired him we told him he wouldn't have to worry about the weather here in Joplin like he did in Nebraska," he said. "About two weeks after he came to Joplin, it snowed 24 inches. I think

he may have been a little leery after that."

During the 1970-71 school year, the humanities and fine arts, science and mathematics, and social science departments were combined into a division of arts and sciences under the chairmanship of Cooper.

Cooper, as the first dean of arts and sciences, was instrumental in shaping the College into a four-year program.

"In the early days there weren't many programs on campus, and the programs we had were small," said Dr. Larry Martin, the current dean of arts and sciences. "He played a major part in the curriculum development of our program."

"He served the College in an excellent way for many years," Belk said.

Cooper held the title of dean of arts and sciences until 1980, when he became the associate vice president for academic affairs. He retired from Southern in 1984.

"Dr. Cooper was a fine gentle-

man," Martin said. "He always had a smile on his face."

Cooper was born July 6, 1918, in Hambleton, W.Va. In 1948 he received a bachelor of arts degree from Berea (Ky.) College. He received a master of arts degree in 1949 and a doctorate in 1959 from the University of Nebraska at Lincoln.

He taught at Kearney (Neb.) State College, Winona (Minn.) State College, and Nebraska Wesleyan University at Lincoln before coming to Missouri Southern in 1968. He was also a U.S. Army Air Corps veteran of World War II, serving from 1942-45.

Cooper married Marjorie Ann Ehlers on Sept. 27, 1945, at Elkhorn, Neb. She survives. Additional survivors include a son, Curtis, of Lee's Summit; a daughter, Janet, of Wayne, Neb.; and a sister.

He was a member of Peace Lutheran Church, the American Legion, and Joplin Elk's Lodge No. 501. □

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PSYCHOLOGY DEPARTMENT

Murdock fulfills life's dream in Africa

By EILEEN COR
STAFF WRITER

It's true that dreams do come true. Dr. Gwen Murdock, professor of psychology, is presently living her childhood dream in Tanzania, Africa.

"I have wanted to come to East Africa since I saw the Disney movie *Daktari* when I was 8 years old," Murdock said. "When I was 13, I had to write an essay about where I would be in 20 years. I wrote about coming to Tanzania and working to improve domestic cattle herds near Mt. Meru."

She is there with her husband, John Couper, who is conducting research for his Ph.D. dissertation in mass communication and journalism at the University of Wisconsin. His purpose is to learn how ordinary people in Africa think about and respond to the news they receive on the radio or in the newspaper.

Murdock is studying the development of social behavior of three types of African antelope: wildebeest, hartebeest, and sable antelope.

Murdock and Cooper chose Tanzania over Kenya because it is politically stable and safer for tourists. Language was another consideration.

"Even though people speak their tribal languages to other tribe members, everyone speaks Swahili," Murdock said. "John had lived in Kenya in 1967 [where he] had learned Swahili, so that was a natural choice for him."

Murdock's Swahili fluency is limited.

"I dearly miss the intellectual stimulation of teaching and interacting with my students and colleagues at Missouri Southern," she said. "There are only a few Tanzanians whose English fluency enables us to have a deep philosophical discussion, and there have not been many opportunities even with them."

She believes her experience abroad will enhance her teaching at Southern.

"It will certainly give me a new set of examples and stories to illustrate some basic principles of psychology," Murdock said.

"I have seen people in Tanzanian culture facing the same concerns as people in our culture: How to live a comfortable life, how to help children prepare for adulthood, how to survive working for a difficult boss, how to make ethical and just decisions."

She has observed the same in animals trying to live comfortably and prepare their offspring for adulthood.

"I hope to help students appreciate how each organism tries to achieve these goals," Murdock said.

She noted that the significant difference between U.S. culture and Tanzanian culture is the lack of aggressiveness and rudeness in Tanzania.

"You just don't see people expressing hostility and anger very much," she said. "Once in a while, you will see adolescent males pushing each other. But often, these little fights are broken up by an older person coming over and putting their hand on one of the antagonist's shoulders and speaking softly to them."

Murdock said she will miss the new friends she has made. She will also miss "fantastic sunrises, superb sunsets over mountains," and the wildlife.

"I will miss driving around the corner and finding a giraffe, zebra, or elephant in the middle of the road," she said.

"I will miss hearing lions roar and hyenas whoop outside my window in Mikumi National Park."

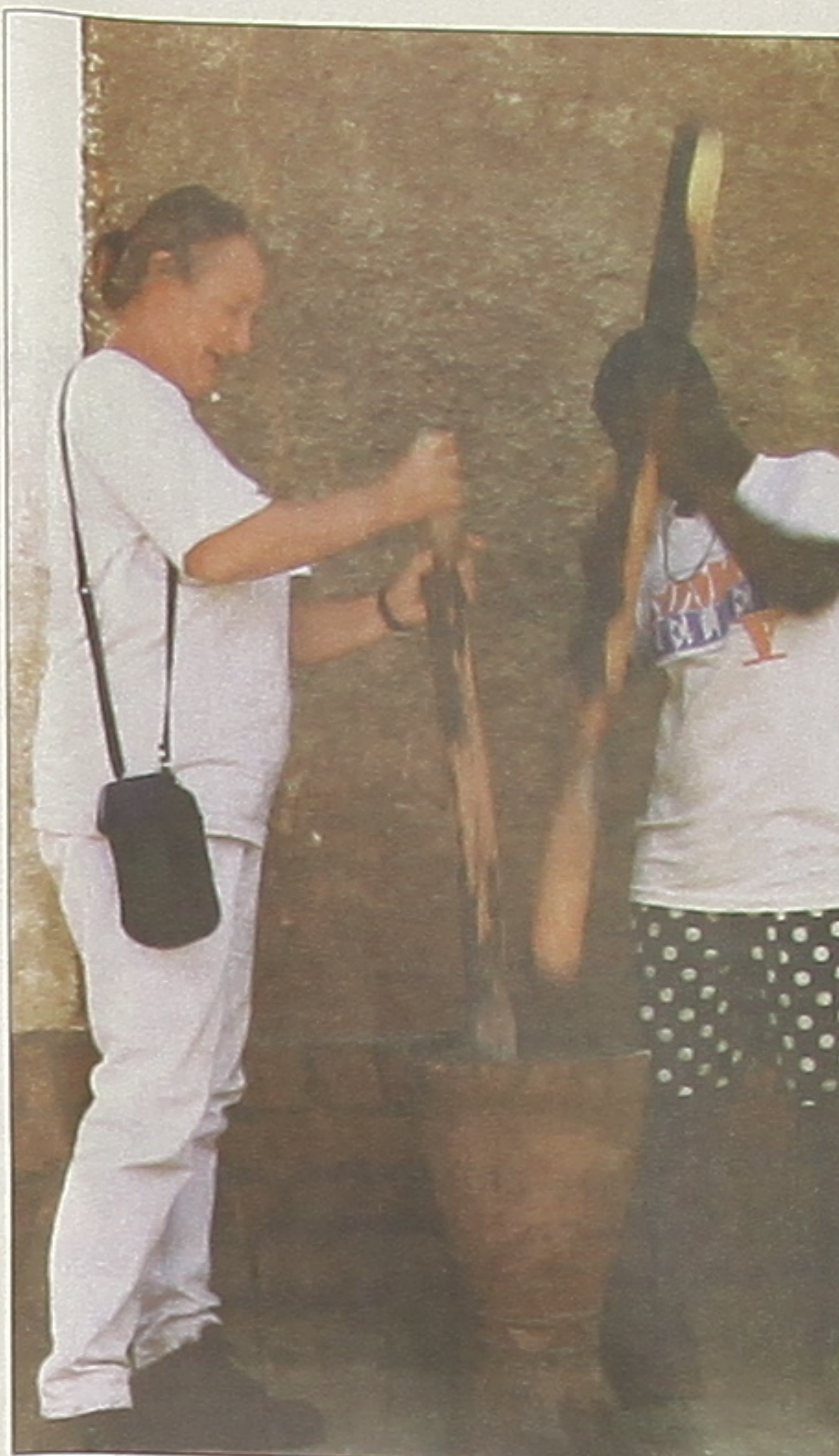
She will also miss all the color combinations prevalent everywhere she goes.

"I will miss the remarkable contrasts of red soil to golden, pink, green, and purple vegetation," Murdock said. "There are also wonderful color combinations in the traditional kangas that women wear. American clothes will seem completely drab after this experience."

She will not miss "taking antimalarial medicine, treating water so that it is safe to drink, struggling to get access to a telephone book, the high price of gasoline (\$2.40 per gallon), the high cost of automobile tires (\$80 per tire for the cheapest brand in the smallest size), the outrageous potholes in the 'super highway,' and sleeping under a mosquito net."

Murdock will return to her classes in the spring semester. She plans to correspond with at least four families in Tanzania. She wishes they could visit America.

"So much of what Tanzanians see as America is what they get from exported action movies: Arnold Schwarzenegger, Jean-Claude Van Damme, Sylvester Stallone," she said. "I would like people to see the real America." □



SPECIAL TO THE CHART
Dr. Gwen Murdock, professor of psychology, is fulfilling a life-long dream by visiting Africa. She is currently in Tanzania, Africa.

SOUTHERN NEWS BRIEFS

Committee awards sixteen research grants

Sixteen research grants have been awarded to Missouri Southern students by the Student Research Grant Committee for the fall 1997 and spring 1998 semesters.

The research grants range in size from \$75 to \$700. Recipients are selected by a committee of faculty members. In order to be eligible for a grant, the students must have a faculty sponsor. Funds from the grants help support the research project and presentations at conferences.

Grants were awarded to Amanda Costley-Drake and Gretchen Leggett, junior biology majors, for a study of food irradiation; Shawn Irish, senior theatre major, Nathan Ball, junior theatre major, and Donald Leffert, sophomore theatre major, to support their research in theatrical lighting and set design for [ital]Guys and Dolls[endif]; Megan Murphy, senior biology major, who is studying the effect of "variations in dietary Mg supplements on rate bone integrity"; and Phill Johnson, senior biology major, for his study of "Ex Situ Bioremediation of Petroleum Based Hydrocarbon Contaminated Soil Using Micro-Organisms."

Senior psychology majors Nicole Lammy, Rebecca Presley, and Jeremiah Woolverton received grants to present research on "Effects of Color on State Anxiety and Short Term Memory."

Amanda D. Mosley, Garra DeLong, Nicole Corp, and Wendy M. Andrews, senior psychology majors, received grants for research on the "Ideal Body Image Commercials, Confederate Comments and Self-concept"; Rachel Rowland, senior psychology major, for research on "Emotional Reactions to Jasper County's Enhanced 911 Emergency Service"; and Sandy Fisk, junior psychology major, for research on "College Students' Attitudes Toward Depression and Seeking Professional Help." □

Messiah performance to feature four soloists

Four accomplished guest soloists will join hundreds of voices in the presentation of Handel's *Messiah* Tuesday at Taylor Performing Arts Center at Missouri Southern.

Admission is free to enjoy this holiday tradition, which represents one of the largest choral and orchestral presentations in the region.

A mass choir has been rehearsing under the direction of Charles "Bud" Clark, in his ninth year as director of choral activities at Southern. A 45-piece orchestra will accompany the choir for the presentation of the stirring classic, popularly known for its rousing "Hallelujah" chorus.

The four soloists, all of whom have outstanding vocal credentials, are tenor Michael Ryan-Wenger, bass Douglas Maag, mezzo-soprano Debra Scroggins-Sowerwine, and soprano Susan Smith. □

Distance learning grads to be honored at ceremony

The second graduating class of the cooperative distance learning program between Missouri Southern and the University of Missouri-Kansas City nursing program will be recognized during a ceremony at 2 p.m. Saturday in Webster Hall auditorium.

The ceremony is open to the public.

Seven students will receive their master's degrees in nursing, and an eighth student will earn post-master's recognition at the ceremony that will include a live video address from UMKC Chancellor Eleanor Brantley Schwartz via a telecommunications link from Kansas City to Southern's campus.

A reception will be held following the ceremony. □

STUDENT FEATURE

Student receives early gift via China

Two year wait ends for Parker family

By GINNY DUMOND
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

As the China Semester draws to a close and Christmas spirit is all around, a little piece of China has made it home to Joplin just in time for the holidays.

Billy and Dana Parker, of Joplin, arrived at the Joplin Regional Airport Nov. 20 with a sigh of relief and a new addition to their family — Taryn Mariah Parker.

Billy, a senior management major, and Dana, a 1979 Missouri Southern graduate, have been attempting to adopt from China for nearly two years.

"In late '95 we went to a seminar in Riverton (Kan.) about international adoptions. Then in January of '96 we decided to go for it," Dana said.

Though the Parkers were told it would take nine to 10 months to

find a child and finalize the adoption, there were some unexpected problems that slowed the process.

"There's a lot of paperwork, and immigration kept losing our documents," Dana said. "A year ago October, China went through some major reorganization, so they put a stop to the adoptions. It set everybody off about a year."

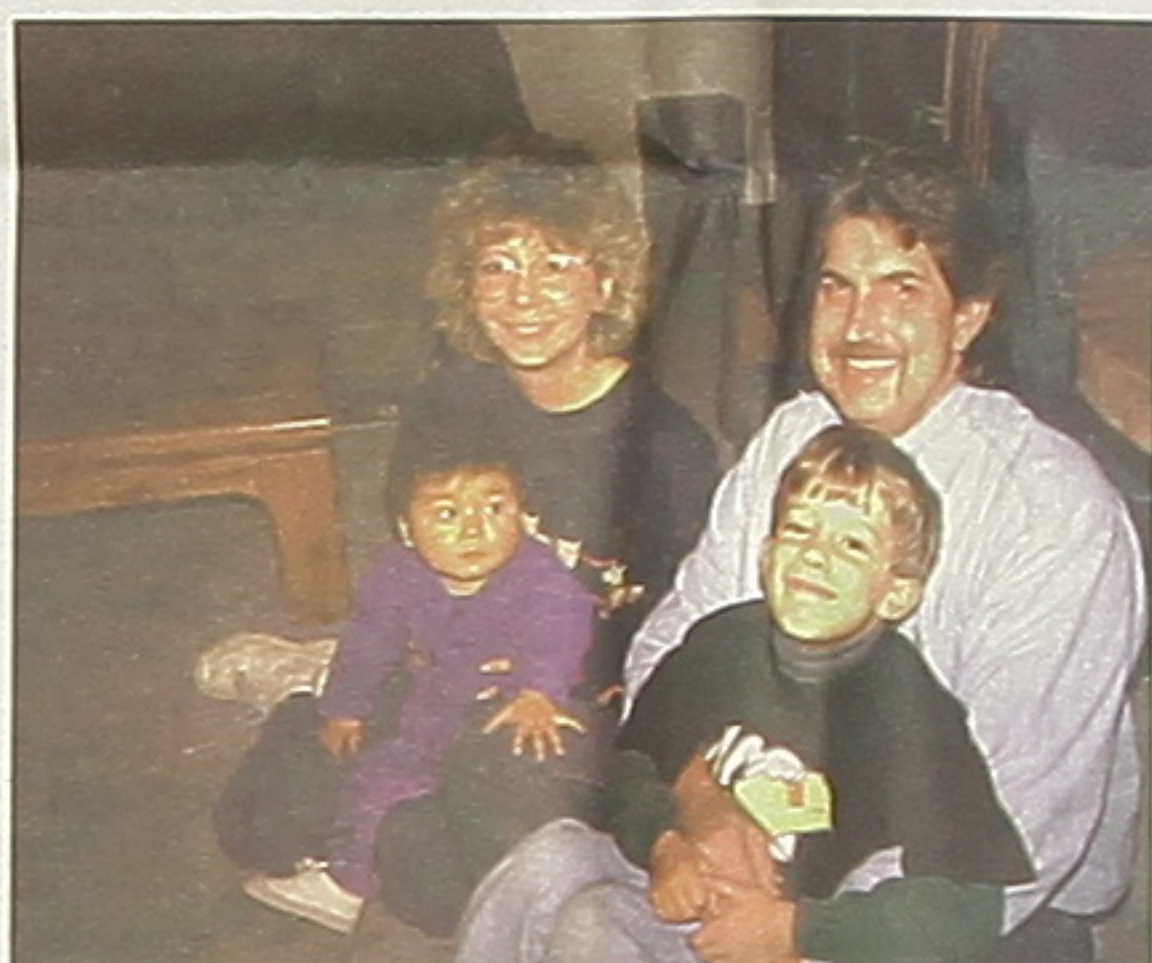
In September 1997, the Parkers received news that a child was available.

"They sent us a picture of her and a bunch of stuff written in Chinese which we later had translated," Dana said. "A month later we got permission to travel, and two weeks later we were gone."

The Parkers said they had picked China for a number of reasons, including the low cost, and because they wanted a girl to join their 6-year-old son, Tabor.

"China's almost a sure bet on getting a girl," Dana said. "We weren't picky about what nationality, and at the time China was the fastest way."

When the couple arrived in China they stayed in Guangzhou and trav-



GINNY DUMOND/The Chart
The Parker family, Dana (left rear), Billy (right rear), Taylor (right front) added a new member to their family, Taryn Mariah (left rear).

eled to the orphanage in Nan Chang.

"They wouldn't let us see the orphanage at all," Billy said.

"I don't think anybody's allowed to see the orphanage. She was brought to our hotel by the orphanage director," Dana added.

The worst part of the trip came when Taryn became sick while they were still in China.

"One of the most scary things about the trip was her getting sick and us not being able to understand

the doctor," Billy said.

He said they both enjoyed the Chinese culture, although the weather was rainy and the language barrier presented problems. Getting back to the United States, however, was a relief for the couple.

"Coming home was shorter than going over," Billy said, "but she couldn't go to sleep without laying flat on her back."

"She's been in a crib all her life, so she can't go to sleep in your arms yet," Dana said. □

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

Finals, holidays mark end of first semester

By GINNY DUMOND
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

These last weeks of school are bittersweet for freshmen who are looking forward to the holidays but facing their first finals week.

Sociology major Wade Early says he is busy with the Missouri Southern Lion baseball team on top of studying for finals.

"I have a final every day of finals," Early said. "Baseball's in the off-season, so we're only practicing five days a week now."



Five freshmen, a cross-section of the Missouri Southern student body, share their concerns, fears, and dreams as they move toward graduation in May 2001.

Beside on-the-field-training, Early says the squad has been practicing with members of the track team to improve its speed.

"I've heard nothing but four-letter words about running with the track team," he said with a laugh.

As a member of the honors program, Early has a certain grade-point average to maintain, but he does not seem worried about his final grades.

"I'm not going to stay up nights wondering if I'm still in the honors program," he said. "I'm just going to do the best I can while still maintaining a life."

Over the break Early has plans to relax and have fun.

"Koinonia ski trip is a big excitement," he said. "And I can tell my mom misses me."

With divorced parents and grandparents to visit on both sides, undecided major Tiffany Hilton is looking forward to a busy Christmas break.

"I get to see everybody pretty much," she said. "I have many Christmases."

College finals lore has Hilton a little nervous

about sitting down to take the exams.

"You always hear the horror stories, so I don't really know what to expect, but it'll be over soon enough," she said.

The holiday season will be a hectic time for dental hygiene major Nann Starkweather as she prepares for her upcoming wedding, but a time of relaxation for biology major Amanda Pulce.

"I'm just going to sit around and watch the 'Young and the Restless,'" Pulce said.

Though she lives on campus, Pulce says it will be good to be at her Joplin home over the break.

"College is way different than I ever thought it would be," she said. "Even though I live close to my mom, I still miss her."

Undecided major Damion Belk, who has been working on his fantasy/fiction novel, says he is not too worried about semester finals.

"We had finals in high school every semester, you've just got to study a little more," he said.

"After finals I'm going to write and just lay back and relax and catch up on my sleep." □

EDITOR'S COLUMN

The great American hoax: Yuletide

Never is there a heftier push for the masses to be more cheerful and giving than this time of the year. And never do you hear more good deeds being done than during this time of year.

Yet, we Americans are not cheerful, jolly, nor are we kind. Let's face it, we give away clothes to the shelters or needy only because we wouldn't be caught dead in them. However, those less fortunate should be happy to be decked out in parachute pants and Hawaiian shirts. I think not. We give food to those who cannot afford the splendor of the Butterball, but only the leftover dark meat. Nobody eats dark meat. Only the really sick, twisted Yuletide souls eat dark meat on purpose. They're the same clowns who hang out at Renaissance festivals explicitly for the big drumsticks.

We are not kind. I certainly am not. Those damn bell ringers are more likely to hear the clang of my brass knuckles on their silver fillings than my dimes hitting the bottom of their tin buckets.

The incessant jingling starts earlier now. Sometime in August they bring the Santa suits out of mothballs and the jolly ole elf makes a preemptive fly-by the nearest mall to put everybody in the spirit.

Well, dammit, it's ruined mine. And, by God, it's ruined America. It's turned us all into a bunch of heartless, thoughtless, careless, selfish twits who care nothing for one another until the last Thursday in November and the 25th of December.

Just to give an indication of how cold this country has become, my dear, sweet, fragile saint of a grandmother e-mailed me the other day to tell me my 97-year-old great-grandfather had died. No phone call, no telegram, no overnight mail; instead, she sent me an e-mail. Now, I don't know about the rest of you, but nothing says compassion like an e-mail about a dead loved one with a subject titled "Sad news."

Christmas and Thanksgiving used to be two holidays children looked forward to because they had time off from school to play with friends and eat themselves sick. Now it's extra time to pop a cap in little Johnny for stealing the dime bag of crack that was meant as a Christmas present for little Susie. Nothing says puppy love like a dime bag.

The time between Thanksgiving and Christmas used to be sacred, but no longer. Once that last bite of pumpkin pie is down the gullet on Thanksgiving night, you can get back to being an uncaring bastard. That means if you pass some poor soul walking along the highway in 30-degree weather desperately looking for a lift, you are not forced by your morals and dignity to stop. Just keep on trucking. Nothing says empathy like an 18-wheeler driving on the shoulder toward a helpless pedestrian.

Hickory Farms and those damnable year-round Christmas mall shops are to blame for the ruination of this glorious holiday. Nobody cares anymore for these days, nobody looks forward to them with the wild abandonment we all once possessed.

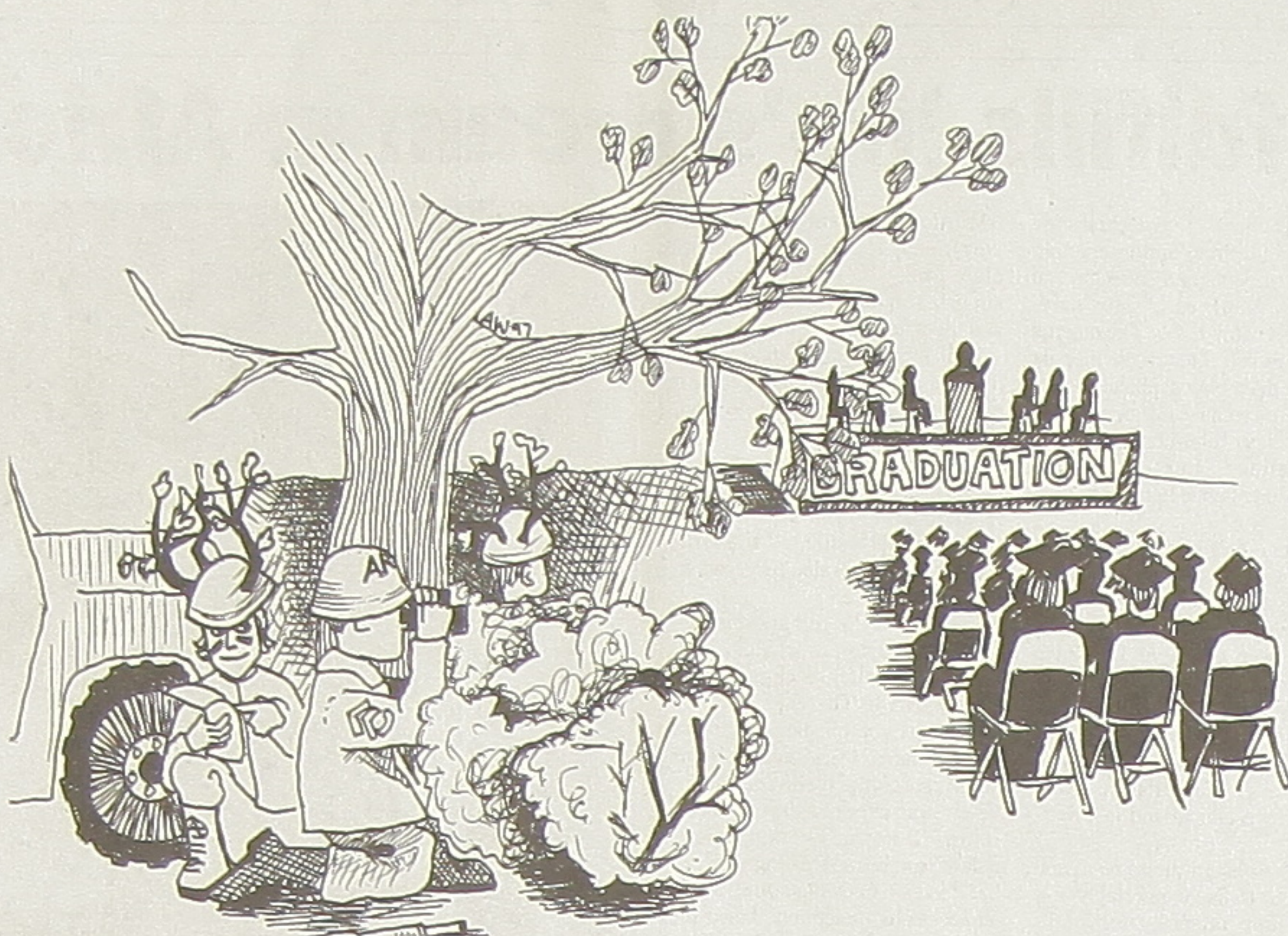
This season sucks, and it's only compounded by the fact that it gets cold enough to make a man's nipples fall off. It has become a misnomer since the 1950s to even identify Dec. 25 with Jesus Christ, but yet we insist.

Think about it. Are you happy it's Christmas time? I didn't think so. ☐



J.L. Griffin

Editor-in-chief



OUR EDITORIAL

Unsigned editorials on this page express the opinions of a majority of The Chart editors. Observations elsewhere on the page represent independent viewpoints of columnists, cartoonists, and readers.

Military invades privacy

As if college students don't already get enough junk mail and telephone sales calls, their names have been added to yet another salesperson's list: Uncle Sam's.

Missouri Southern stood firm for many years, protecting the privacy rights of students by refusing to release names and numbers until confronted with a law eerily reminiscent of the draft.

The Solomon Amendment states that names, addresses, and phone numbers of college students, along with various other sundry information, must be released to military recruiters. The only exception is for students who physically go to the College registrar and submit a written request to have the information withheld.

The U.S. military should contain the best and brightest people wanting to join. Why then would it want to contact either people who know about the option and are not inter-

ested or the very few who have somehow made it through 13 years of school without realizing our military is a volunteer force?

Should these be the people our tax dollars are recruiting to protect our national security?

When President Franklin Roosevelt signed the Selective Training and Service Act of 1940, creating the nation's first peacetime draft, he couldn't have foreseen that a list of every young man in the nation would not be enough for recruiters.

Which brings up the point that perhaps this amendment simply begins to level the playing field between the sexes. Why should men have their names exposed publicly while the women in society get to hide behind silly issues like privacy?

Women wanted equal rights and now they have them. Equal opportunity to be pestered by annoying military recruiters. ☐

YOUR LETTERS

The Chart welcomes letters from readers. Letters must be signed and include a phone number for verification. Letters should be 300 words or fewer. Submit letters to The Chart office on the third floor of Webster Hall, fax them to (417) 625-9742, or send via E-mail. Our E-mail address: Chart@mail.mssc.edu. Letters are due by noon Monday for publication in that week's edition.

Campus crooks spoiling Christmas spirit

Today (Dec. 8) after class I picked up my belongings only to realize my purse was missing.

Thinking back, I'm not sure if it even made it to my class with me. That little black purse contained over \$40 that was meant to provide formula and diapers for my child.

This purse was lost around

Matthews Hall and was turned in to Heames Hall with nothing but my driver's license and a photo of my daughter.

I would just like to say that it takes a sick person to do such a thing.

I'm a part-time student and a single mother trying to make a life for my child, and now because of a selfish idiot I

have only a handful of pennies to last my child and me through the week.

To the person who did this — thank you for making my week miserable, and Merry Christmas to everyone else.

Beware: there's a thief on campus.

Melissa Martin
Freshman undecided major

Banner thieves destroying time of celebration

"A thing of beauty is a joy forever..." (John Keats). However, the banner, "Celebrate the Pond," created by Desiree Peterson and the Art League, has disappeared from the north entrance of BSC.

We had hoped others in the future could enjoy this fine artistic presentation of ideal frogs on lily pads in our Biology Pond.

Now, all we can do is acknowledge the artists' creativity, after the fact.

Please! Have a heart! Don't be a toad! Give us our frogs back!

Dr. Ann Marlowe
Professor of English

Forum page should include more 'public forum'

I think that to make your Public Forum page truly public, you should publish some works by Southern students or alumni who aren't on the Chart staff.

Perhaps a series of essay debates between two students on a given topic. Atheism vs. Christianity, Pro-Life vs. Pro-Choice, Animal Rights vs. Conservationists, Republican vs.

Democrat, and et cetera.

This would generate more student interest in the paper, reading from week to week the arguments and replies by the different sides. A few rules would have to be established, such as no personal attacks, no libelous material, and an article would be subject to editorial discretion.

This would be a tremendous opportunity for the exchange of ideas in a public forum that would, in my opinion, greatly enhance the student interest and quality of The Chart, an already great publication.

Matt Prihoda
Sophomore political science major

IN PERSPECTIVE

Trip opens eyes to England's cultural wonders

A land of knights and dragons, kings and castles, ancient forests, and rolling green hills — England — or at least what I knew of it. Upon arrival, all of these notions were dispelled, and had it not been for the eight hours spent in flight, I would have thought I was simply in an America where people drove on the wrong side of the road and spoke with a strange accent. This was the first impression I had of England, and, though it was shocking, it allowed me to adjust to a new culture and truly come to recognize and appreciate the differences between English and American culture.

The city of Sunderland in northeastern England, once home of the greatest shipyards in the world, is but a remnant of its former glory. With the growth of mechanization, this city, like so many others, was unable to compete on the world market. Its shipyards were closed and unemployment soared. The marks of this once prosperous city, its theaters and museums, were emptied and the pubs were filled with men lamenting their inability to support their families.

Yet, amidst the darkness, a spark of light kindled a small flame. Whereas skilled labor once supported the city, intellectual pursuit, in the form of a university, now supplies the economic base of the city. It is to this university that I came.

Education in Europe differs quite dramatically from the United States' education system. In England, to attend a university is a privilege because it is open only to those who apply themselves in earlier education. Those who do not earn high test scores cannot go to the university but must attend a vocational school or simply not pursue further education.

While here in the U.S. we are allowed a greater "freedom" to choose if we want to attend college or not, it is not without a cost. What we gain in freedom, we lose in recognition of the value of our degrees. Since fewer of the English obtain college degrees, it is worth more to an employer.

The atmosphere and emphasis of higher education in England is also different. There is a much higher degree of focus in the English system and a much less rigid structure. It is more relaxed because the student is responsible for his or her learning. This form of education is often called the equivalent of U.S. graduate school.

For this reason, and the fact that education is paid for by the government, a student in England is usually only a student. Very few work during college. This allows for a greater interaction between students, which gives more time for building friendships and traveling.

As a result of the cost of owning an automobile, fewer students have them. European cities, being hundreds of years old, were originally built for a society lacking modern forms of transportation. Thus, everything is generally within walking distance. This means many people, who in the States would merely pass each other in cars, walk to where they are going, allowing each to observe a greater amount of the culture and the people who dwell in it.

It is this observance of the culture and its people which teaches one the true uniqueness and beauty of a different culture. ☐



Greg Pendergraft
Junior, undecided

THE CHART

SPJ — The Nation's Best Non-Daily Collegiate Newspaper (1995, 1996)
ACP National Pacemaker (1997)
ACP Pacemaker Finalist (1982, 1986, 1988, 1989, 1990, 1991, 1992, 1994, 1997)
MCMA — "Best in State" (1993-94, 1996-97)

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

New section of state highway opens for traffic

By KEVIN COLEMAN
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Thanks to the section of Highway 71 that opened three weeks ago, drivers can now travel more safely and at higher speeds between Joplin and Neosho.

"They just opened up to traffic from Tipton Ford, south of Joplin, to Route 60, just west of Neosho, the Wednesday before Thanksgiving," said Doug Jackson, southwest district transportation project manager for the Missouri Department of Transportation.

Contractors began work on the newly opened stretch of four-lane highway about three years ago. The section is nine miles long, and MoDOT predicts 14,000 motorists per day will be using the road.

"It will take a while for people to get used to using it," Jackson said. "Once the next section, from Route 60 to Goodman, is built, I think it will pick up even more traffic."

"Four-lane interstate highways are the safest highways we have," he

said. "On 71, there is a lot of traffic. That's why we're trying to design the safer four-lane highway. This should increase safety."

The nine-mile stretch between Joplin and Neosho cost \$33 million to build.

"That works out to a little over \$3.5 million per mile," Jackson said. "That's just the construction cost. Typically engineering costs will run about 5 percent of that, and purchase of the land [for this project] cost about \$2.2 million."

Jackson said the section going south to Goodman will be started in the spring of 1998, and is expected to be completed in 2001. Another section will run from Goodman to Anderson.

"South of Anderson, we don't have an alignment yet," he said. "We're waiting on some decisions to be made on where Arkansas is going to build the bypass, through Bella Vista or around Bella Vista."

"Arkansas is working on its environmental impact statement now," he said.

"We're hoping that when it's all finished it will be I-49 from Kansas City to Shreveport [La.]," Jackson said. "Right now we have some route marking changes going on. From Tipton Ford to Neosho, existing 71 is going to be 175, and from Range Line to Tipton Ford is now Business 71."

There is also work to be done from Interstate 44 north. The construction contract for the Range Line bypass will be up for bids in October 1998. Work on that road should begin in 1999.

When it is finished, though, might depend on what environmental factors get in the way.

"The University of Missouri-Rolla is doing some seismic testing, trying to identify the old [mine] shafts we'll hit," said Jerry Bradley, MoDOT southwest district transportation project manager.

"Then for each individual shaft we'll develop a mitigation plan on how to take care of it. There may be two or three ways to plug the mine shafts." □



TERESA BLAND/The Chart
An over-the-road truck driver travels the new stretch of Highway 71 between Tipton Ford and Neosho. The section of road took three years to complete, and opened to vehicles the Wednesday before Thanksgiving.

FACULTY FEATURE



SPECIAL TO THE CHART

The 1964 GTO was the first mid-sized car to have a 389, stock engine.

Professor loves horsepower of muscle car

By JEFF BILLINGTON
STAFF WRITER

Cruising into automotive history in 1964, Pontiac's GTO was perhaps the first true muscle car.

The "Goat," as it was commonly known, was the first intermediate-sized General Motors (GM) automobile to come with a 389 block engine standard before they had been regulated to a 350, according to the Pontiac GTO Web page.

In December 1964 Dr. Conrad Gubera, Missouri Southern profes-

sor of sociology, purchased one of these muscle cars while teaching at Joplin High School. He has remained the only owner of this car.

"I fell in love with it the first time I saw it," he said. "It was a demonstrator at Roper Pontiac."

Gubera said he traded in a 1959 retractable top Ford for the demonstrator, which only had about 5,000 or 6,000 miles on it.

"I think the price was about \$3,600," he said. "I gave my car and about \$2,700 or \$2,800 for it."

Gubera said the GTO was the car of his dreams.

"The car was midnight blue, the most beautiful blue I had ever seen," he said. "I just liked the car, I liked the color, I liked the style, and I loved the horsepower."

He said before he stopped driving the car in the early 1990s he had put 220,000 miles on the GTO.

"It went through my marriage," Gubera said, "through the first two kids, through graduate school of a Ph.D. and a master's, and it's still setting out in the garage at the farm."

Gubera said he recently had the engine rebuilt and plans to do more

work on it in the near future.

"It needs a paint job, new tires, and a new interior," he said. "The rest of it's ready to go; it just needs to be restored."

"Last time I drove it onto campus was probably '90 or '91 just before we moved to Webster Hall," he said. "I parked it near Kuhn Hall, and I found two notes under the windshield wipers, one on each side. Both of them were offers to buy the car."

"Now I drive a much better car to school. And no one ever makes an offer." □

JASPER COUNTY SUPPORT SERVICES

MAKING OPPORTUNITIES HAPPEN FOR PERSONS WITH DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

Jasper County Support Service is a non-profit agency serving over 400 persons with mental retardation or other development disabilities. We offer community based programs and services including: residential programs (group homes), supported living, residential assistance, day programs, respite services, leisure services and summer camp. We employ over 140 staff in both full time and part time positions.

If you are interested in a challenging, fulfilling job with flexible hours, consider Jasper County Support Services. We offer a paid training program. Staff wages start at \$5.75 per hour and increase to \$6.50 per hour in 120 days. Applications are available at Jasper County Support Services, 2312 Annie Baxter, Joplin, Missouri.

417-624-4515

COLLECTIBLES

Fairy tale comes true for local artist

By TAMMY SPICER
EXECUTIVE EDITOR

Cinderella comes to mind when a person hears the story of Linda Lindquist Baldwin. A decade ago she was a single mother struggling to make ends meet by working two jobs and taking classes at Missouri Southern and Crowder College in the evening. Today she is the designer of a collectible line expected to reach between \$2 million and \$4 million in retail sales.

"I consider myself an optimist," Baldwin said. "If 99 things go wrong, I try to look for the one thing that went right."

Her optimism was often put to the test when she was growing up in McDonald County. Because of a dispute with the electric company, her family lived without running water and electricity. Mornings before school consisted of chores and hauling water from the creek to heat it on a wood stove, she said.

"I didn't mind getting up so early, though," Baldwin explained. "The frost was always so sparkly on the ground before anyone else started walking around. I wonder if that is the reason I am so drawn to the sparkle of my designs."

In 1986 things started to change for Baldwin after a fateful stop at a garage sale. She bought a book about antique Christmas decorations for a nickel because she didn't want to hurt the woman's feelings.

"Some of the things in the book were so wonderful, but I knew I couldn't afford them," Baldwin said. "Would you believe I took toilet paper, Elmer's glue, and water and starting making Santas?"

Even more impressive is that she began the project with no art or craft making background. She called her creations Belsnickles, an old traditional German Santa.

"They were really pretty ugly," Baldwin said. "But I sold them for \$6. I bought one of those same Santas back for \$75. I now have a standing offer of \$1,000 for my original Santas."

At one craft show, a scout from *Better Homes and Garden* who said Baldwin was renewing an old lost art of papier-mâché.

"He referred me to the Smithsonian museum and the Museum of American Folk Art," she said. "I started getting some national attention; there was even a piece about me on CNN Headline News."

She wasn't on her own in this venture, Baldwin explained. When her son Seth, junior biology major, was assigned to write a report on a famous Joplin person while he was in the sixth grade, he chose to write about his mother.

"At first I was really flattered," Baldwin said. "But after I got to thinking about it, I wondered if he was just too lazy to go to the library."

Seth titled his report "From a nickel to the Belsnickle..." remembering the start of the business with a nickel purchase. His mother liked it so much it is now her line's motto. In every one of her pieces there is also a nickel embedded in the design to signify her start.

"It is really neat to see all the stuff my mom can make," Seth said. "The ones she makes now have a different character than in the beginning."

When the business really started



Linda Lindquist Baldwin, Joplin, shows off one of the snowmen in her new collectible line, Snowsnickles. Baldwin has been making old-fashioned Santas for more than a decade and just added some new items.

TAMMY SPICER/The Chart

REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

Construction continues on highway interchange

The fastest-growing industry in the Joplin area is the trucking business. This is particularly evident from a glimpse of the traffic at the I-44 interchange at Route 43 near the entrance to the Petro Truck Stop at Joplin's southwest corner. In April 1992, the Missouri Department of Transportation (MoDOT) added a project to its construction program to increase traffic capacity and improve safety at this busy interchange.

Construction began in November 1996 to build a new bridge on Route 43 over I-44 that will have four lanes and a center left-turn lane.

These five lanes will begin just north of the interchange and end approximately half a mile south of the bridge.

New traffic signals will also be installed at the intersection of Route 43 and the I-44 westbound on- and off-ramps and at the intersection of the Petro entrance and Outer Road to the east.

The I-44 eastbound and westbound off-ramps will also be widened to two lanes to increase traffic capacity.

The west side of the new bridge over I-44 has been built and is in place, and the old bridge has been removed.

Traffic has been moved to the west portion of the new bridge while construction continues on the east half of the new bridge.

Crews will continue to work on the new bridge through the winter, as weather permits.

Construction-related traffic congestion and delays should not be as severe as they have been because part of the Route 43 widening has already been completed, the final resurfacing will be done, and traffic signals will be installed.

The project is expected to be completed in May 1998. □

Freeman administrator elected to CBCO board

Dr. Charles Bentlage, a retired surgeon and current administrator for Freeman Hospitals and Health Systems in Joplin, has been elected to the Community Blood Center of the Ozarks (CBCO) board of directors.

Bentlage will fill the unexpired term of Mickey Mitchell, executive director of Freeman Hospitals and Health Systems.

Bentlage brings a wealth of experience and knowledge in health care to the CBCO board of directors. Bentlage joins 22 other men and women from throughout the CBCO service area who provide leadership for the organization.

Community Blood Center of the Ozarks provides all the blood and blood products to 27 area hospitals, including St. John's Regional Medical Center and Freeman Hospitals and Health Systems in Joplin, Barton County Memorial Hospital in Lamar, and Freeman Neosho Hospital.

The 27 area hospitals need a total of at least 250 units of blood per day from CBCO donors to supply all the blood and blood products they require daily to help save the lives of area patients. □

Filing period opens for Joplin City Council seats

Five open Joplin City Council seats are up for grabs in the April 7 election. The filing period for the openings begins Tuesday.

Elections for the Council are held every two years, with four or five positions being filled by the voters.

The empty seats were held by Donald Clark, Bob Pullen, and Darius Adams; a Zone 1 seat held by Jack Belden; and a vacated Zone 4 seat that was held by former Mayor Ron Richard.

Nominating petitions may be picked up at the office of the city clerk. They must be filed by Jan. 20. □

CHRISTMAS WISHES



TIM WILSON/The Chart

Two-year-old Amber Swager (left) and 5-year-old Ashley Swager, both of Lawton, Kan., show Santa their wish lists.

Santa's pants are difficult to fill

Giga Pets rate higher than G.I. Joe on children's lists to Santa Claus

By JEFF WELLS
STAFF WRITER

Santa Claus is a busy man this time of year. When he needs time away from visiting with young children at Joplin's Northpark Mall, he calls Missouri Southern student Brenden Gubera.

Gubera, a freshman secondary education major, is in his first year filling in for Santa. His motivation for seeking the job was a competition with a buddy.

"A couple of years ago me and a friend had a little bet who could be a Santa Claus first and he never got around to it," he said.

"I've always wanted to [be Santa]," Gubera said. Sharon Carlisle, who oversees Santa's helpers at the mall, hired Gubera for one of three positions. He soon found himself in the chair in the J.C. Penney court.

"There really wasn't any training," he said. "All I did was get used to sitting in my chair."

Gubera has to add layers to fill the suit. Difficulties of his

holiday job include the warm padding he must wear to present a Santa-like physique. On his first night on the job, he soaked two shirts with sweat. When this Santa walks the mall, it is apparent he might need suspenders to hold up his red trousers.

"What's bad is that even with the pants hiked up they still fall down," Gubera said.

He admits to being behind the times in terms of which toys are popular.

"I have no clue of what toys are popular. I have no clue what a Giga Pet is," Gubera said. "I'm not up to date on this; no one asks for G.I. Joe's anymore."

Carlisle said she did have a little concern about having a younger man in the suit, but Gubera has eased her fears.

"He is doing an excellent job," she said. "I think mainly because he loves children."

Gubera, apparently, is doing a good job pleasing younger critics as well. No child has asked if he truly was Santa.

However, he has not escaped all the tough questions. "I had one kid ask me if I could bring her grandpa back," Gubera said.

Another child asked for his family's house back after it had burned.

"The personal questions like that get to you," he said. □

CARTHAGE

Light display attracts visitors to Precious Moments

By BETH HAMILTON
STAFF WRITER

Rich colors and lavish displays are arranged in the Christmas spirit. Driving around, admiring the sparkling lights, is a favorite pastime of some. One place to visit, in this case, is the Precious Moments Chapel and Visitors Center.

"People from all over the United States and the world make special trips to see it," said Linda Garza, special events manager. "The view is just breathtaking."

"You get to see the kids with their expressions, and even the adults 'ooh' and 'aah.'"

Merilyn Arment, acquisition assistant at the Missouri Southern library, is from the Philippines.

She has visited Precious Moments every Thanksgiving for the past three years.

"It's just like a little city with sparkling lights all over," she said.

The Precious Moments grounds crew starts getting the electrical work, trees, and buildings ready in June.

Arment said she especially enjoys the nativity scene.

Kristi Harris, a junior management major at Southern, has lived a mile and a half from Precious Moments for the past nine years.

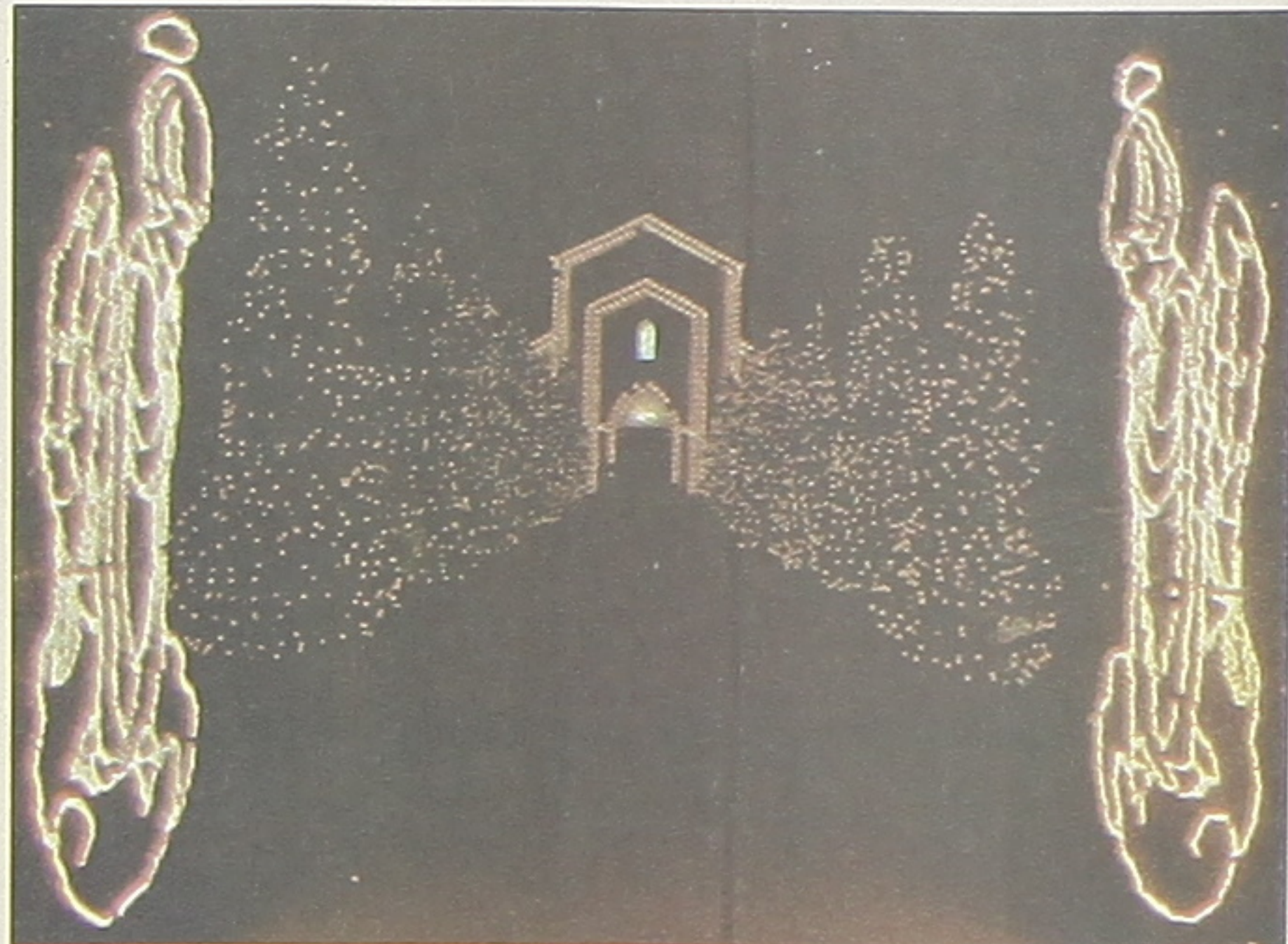
"We usually go about every other Christmas to look at the lights," she said. "I think it really gets you in the Christmas spirit."

"It's really uplifting to look at the lights, especially the ones that look like stars, and to hear the stories about the painted angels," Harris said.

The lights are turned on at dusk and stay on until 10 or 11 p.m. On weekdays, Precious Moments is open from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. On Fridays and Saturdays through Dec. 31, it is open until 10 p.m. Dec. 31 is also when the lights are turned off for the season.

Through the Christmas season, different choirs and bands will perform, along with other events. The fountain of angels is a new attraction this year, along with the chapel, art gallery, and visitor center/gift shop.

"Everyone is touched in one way or another, whether by Sam Butcher's art or the inspirational music," Garza said. "[People] get a lot of Christmas spirit and take something with them. It's a happy place." □



TIM WILSON/The Chart

Precious Moments Chapel in Carthage is known for its annual Christmas lights display. Choirs and bands also perform during the holiday season. Preparations for the event begin as early as June.

Military highlights life experiences

By ERIC GRUBER
CHART REPORTER

After being away from Missouri for nearly 50 years, coming back home is music to the ears of one Missouri Southern student.

Fred Spille, part-time nontraditional student, has seen much of the world through his extensive military career that included stops in Australia, Japan, Guadal Canal, and most of the southwest Pacific.

But he's glad to be back home.

"There's no comparison," says Spille when examining the differences between his residence now and those of his past. "I like time to stop and not particularly do anything. Nothing, if possible."

Spille, 72, was born in Webb City and graduated from high school there in 1943. He then enlisted in the Army and began an extensive military career.

He spent nearly 25 years in the Army, 13 years in the Navy Civil Service, and two years with the Atomic Energy Commission before retiring for good from government work in 1990.

After that, he lived in Las Vegas before returning to Missouri.

Spille says he was "very much involved" with the campaigns of the United States military beginning with World War II.

"I didn't miss World War II, Korea, French Indochina, or the Cuba crisis," he said. "In both military and federal civil service I gained a very, very, very good education."

The military sent Spille to study at the University of Washington, Texas A & M, the Navy post-graduate school, Ottawa University, and Meiji University in Japan.

Spille has two daughters, Robyn, 50, and

Jo, 46, and a son, Fred, 41. He has six grandchildren.

His hobbies include photography, customizing older cars, and flying, but his greatest interest is music. Currently, he is enrolled in marching band, jazz band, and choir at Southern.

"While I was in the military, we had no one that would come and play for us," Spille said. "We made our own entertainment, all of us amateurs."

Through this experience, Spille learned to play several different instruments. The musical groups he participated in imitated many bigger band sounds, including orchestras, big bands, jazz, Dixieland, and even German polka band styles.

"Even after my career, I began to really go after working with the big bands around Las Vegas," Spille said.

His working in Las Vegas resulted in him playing several big band shows all over Nevada. Of his musical experiences, he says, "I got lucky."

Now he spends most of his time talking with people about music and wants to share more of his musical experiences.

"Music never stops, and it's always available," Spille says. "It's very relaxing and satisfying."

He says it is important for him to really know what he thinks he does best and have the most fun.

"I don't mind going back and doing some physics or math or playing with a weapons system, but I really don't want to," he said.

His final comments reflected on his advice for students: "Get all the education you can," he says. "It pays, and it causes you to think. And, above all, keep a good sense of humor." □



TERESA BLAND/The Chart

Fred Spille, nontraditional student, participates in his greatest interest, music, by being in the marching band, jazz band and choir at Missouri Southern. He moved back to Missouri after nearly 25 years in the Army. He graduated from Webb City in 1943.

ATHLETICS



TERESA BLAND/The Chart

Kevin Escala, junior psychology major, stretches with some extra help from Stephanie Hilburn, junior kinesiology major and athletic trainer.

Sport offers options

Baseball provides ticket to U.S. college

By JUSTIN DUDINSKY
CHART REPORTER

Traveling more than 1,700 miles and starting over for the third time in three years has allowed Kevin Escala to play America's national pastime.

That's what Escala, a junior psychology major, has to endure in coming to Missouri Southern.

"I have been in three different areas in the United States," he said. "Joplin is by far the most laid back and different for me."

Escala was born and raised in Ottawa-Ontario, Canada, where he played baseball and basketball for much of his life.

He was never interested in "Canada's sport" — hockey, though.

"I was kind of afraid to play hockey when I was younger," he said. "Besides, I was much better in basketball anyway."

In fact, Escala would have played basketball out of high school, but in Canada players need to be "one of the elite" to play basketball.

So during summer baseball his coach hooked him up with an opportunity to play college baseball at Norwalk Community College in New Haven, Conn.

"I thought it would be a great opportunity for me to get my chance to play in the U.S.," he said.

Escala said he enjoyed the school environment at Norwalk and the town. But he just wasn't getting the exposure he had hoped for, despite

a 7-0 pitching record and a 3.14 ERA (earned run average).

So after one year there, Escala decided to go elsewhere. He ended up going to Triton College in Chicago. Southern baseball coach Warren Turner helped him get into Triton.

"Coach Turner saw me playing that summer and got me a chance to play at Triton," he said.

Triton is considered by many as one of the top junior college programs in the nation.

There, Escala was 3-2 with a 4.00 ERA.

"The competition was better at Triton," he said. "But I really didn't pitch as well as I had hoped, either."

Escala was hoping to play NCAA Division I baseball, but grade complications made it impossible.

"Since I couldn't play Division I, and I already knew Turner, I figured that Missouri Southern was an ideal situation for me," he said.

Escala said Southern has been an adjustment for him.

"I'm not used to small towns," he said. "There's not as much to do, especially at night."

"One thing I really like, though, is how much easier it is to meet people within the school."

Escala says he hopes to graduate in 1999 with a bachelor's in psychology.

"I would ideally like to be drafted and possibly pursue a professional career in baseball," he said. "But I also know things like this don't always go as planned. That's why I am really going to push for my education for something nice to fall back on." □

PSYCHOLOGY

Kid at heart enjoys magic, clowning around

By DANNY SMITH
CHART REPORTER

A funeral director, business owner, firefighting instructor, magician, clown, and now a college senior, Gregg Mercer, 42, has a goal to become a family counselor.

Mercer is employed as a child care worker at the Ozark Center's Turn Around Ranch while majoring in psychology at Missouri Southern.

"I've always wanted to work with kids," he said. "That's why I am considering a dual major in education and psychology."

"Educational psychology is what I'm interested in. I've been interested in the actual process of learning for a long time."

Mercer was a firefighting instructor at Oklahoma State University for several years.

"At OSU, I saw adults who couldn't read, couldn't write, and they were high school graduates," he said. "I feel if they had a good educational foundation, like a house needs a good foundation,

they would stand and last longer in society. So I want to learn how the mechanics of education works and how to apply it to the classroom."

OSU sent Mercer all over the United States as well as around the world, including Saudi Arabia during Desert Storm, to train firefighters.

In 1992, he went through some significant emotional changes in his life.

He became divorced and a single parent, he went through a custody battle, and he was diagnosed with bladder cancer, all within six months.

"Trying to raise two daughters and continue the travel required of me was impossible."

Mercer spent all of 1993 getting his finances together and preparing for a move.

"Southwest Missouri was always home," he said. "So I moved back."

He graduated from Crowder College in Neosho with an A.A. degree in elementary education. He majored in education because he likes children.

"I'm just a big kid at heart," he

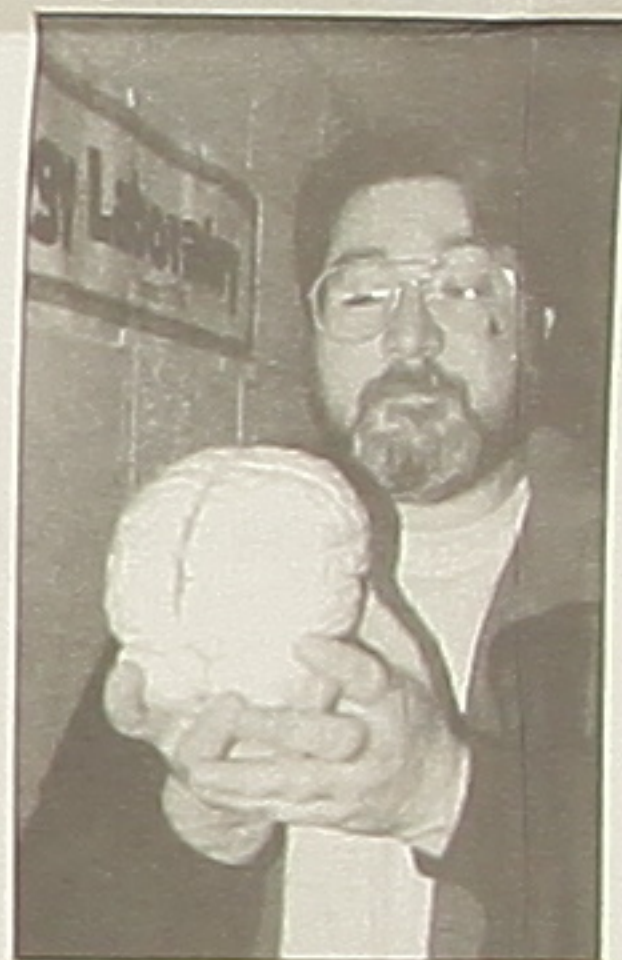
said. "That's why I like doing magic and clowning."

"During the process of moving to Southern, and in discussion with both education and psychology personnel," he said, "I decided if I really wanted to work with kids on a deeper level, psychology would be the way to go. My plans were to go into either clinical psychology, adolescent, or child psychology, but I've always been drawn to teaching. So I decided to go for the dual major."

Mercer's hobbies include doing magic and clowning. He has several character routines based on people he has known. His clown name is Buttons the Clown.

"My experience teaching kids includes being a parent, teaching Sunday School, coaching Little League baseball, the fire prevention classes, and as a substitute teacher. Even the magic and clown shows can be educational," Mercer said.

"The thing I really enjoy most about teaching is what I call 'the lightbulb experience.' It's when you are talking to someone about a



TERESA BLAND/The Chart

Greg Mercer, senior psychology major, examines a plastic brain.

concept or a skill, and all of a sudden their eyes light up. They got it. It's the 'wow moment.' Some people call it the 'ah-ha experience.' It's when they look at you and say, 'I understand.' I've seen this during my magic and clown shows." □

SOCIAL SCIENCES

Grandma bakes, volunteers, attends classes

By JENNIFER DOUBLEDDEE
CHART REPORTER

Mother Teresa is a hero of Patricia Bomar, freshman social science major. "If I could have just touched the hem of her garment," she said. "I think she was the most saintly woman. She really cared about people."

Bomar's mother is another of her heroes. She is the person Bomar tried to model herself after. She believes her mother to be a "spiritual, caring person."

Bomar, a Fulton, Mo., native, moved back to Missouri from Riverside, Calif., where she was a Realtor, seven years ago.

"I am here in Joplin by choice," she said. "California is too busy; fast isn't my normal pace. I feel good here. I'm happy."

Bomar's three children live in the Joplin area. Her two daughters, Sharon Knoel and Linda Norris, are both graduates of Missouri Southern. She has a son, Leo Parker, and 11 grandchildren.

"I'm very active with my grandchildren," Bomar said. "I bake cookies for their day care. I'm just a grandma who really cares about them."

She has many hobbies and interests. Bomar enjoys the computer, working in the yard, reading, and decorating cakes. She is involved with the food shares program at St. Peter's Catholic Church, hospital ministry, hospice, and grief training, and is a cancer volunteer.

"I've been on my own for 12 years now," Bomar said. "This, maybe, is how I cope, how I round my life out."

The food shares program tries to promote volunteerism as well as more nutritious food for the community. "I really worry that people don't have enough food," she said. "I like to help where I think there is a need. If it wasn't good, I wouldn't be doing it."

A "love of learning" brought Bomar to Southern.

"I know it is a good school," she said. "It's close, and I like the school."

If Bomar could do one thing in the world, she would travel to Jerusalem. She would like to "walk the path" Jesus walked.

"The Lord is the main person in my life," Bomar said. "Our life is just a gift, and we need to use it to the best of our ability." □



TERESA BLAND/The Chart

Patricia Bomar, freshman social sciences major, tries to model herself after one of her heroes, her own mother.

CAMPUS CALENDAR

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					12	13
14	15	16	17	18		

Today 12

Noon—
Chi Alpha meeting, BSC, Room 306
7 p.m.—
Men's basketball v. Rockhurst
•Koinonia Christmas Party, College Heights Christian Church
7:30 p.m.—
Messiah concert, Taylor Performing Arts Center, free admission

Saturday 13

7 p.m.—
Women's basketball v. Arkansas Tech

Sunday 14

5 p.m.—
Newman Club meeting, St. Peter's Catholic Church
7 p.m.—
Sigma Phi meeting, Stegge Hall basement
•Alpha Sigma Alpha meeting, Panhellenic Room

Monday 15

Finals:
8 a.m.—
TTh classes that regularly meet at 10 a.m.
10 a.m.—
MWF or daily classes that regularly meet at 10 a.m.
1 p.m.—
MWF or daily classes that regularly meet at 1 p.m.
4 p.m.—
MWF or daily classes that regularly meet at 4 p.m.

Tuesday 16

Finals:
8 a.m.—
TTh classes that regularly meet at 8 a.m.
11 a.m.—
TTh classes that regularly meet at 11 a.m.
2:30 p.m.—
TTh classes that regularly meet at 2:30 p.m.

Wednesday 17

Finals:
8 a.m.—
MWF or daily classes that regularly meet at 8 a.m.
11 a.m.—
MWF or daily classes that regularly meet at 11 a.m.
2 p.m.—
MWF or daily classes that regularly meet at 2 p.m.

Thursday 18

Finals:
9:30 a.m.—
TTh classes that regularly meet at 9:30 a.m.
1 p.m.—
TTh classes that regularly meet at 1 p.m.
4 p.m.—
TTh classes that regularly meet at 4 p.m.
7:30 p.m.—
Choral Society Concert, Phinney Hall, free admission

Friday 19

Finals:
9 a.m.—
MWF or daily classes that regularly meet at 9 a.m.
Noon—
MWF or daily classes that regularly meet at noon
3 p.m.—
MWF or daily classes that regularly meet at 3 p.m.
•Last day to turn in submissions for *Winged Lion*
•Last day to sign up for Sigma Tau Delta convention

Happy Holidays

COMMUNITY BIO RESOURCES

Selling plasma gives cash, satisfaction

By SUSIE FRISBIE
STAFF WRITER

With the holiday season upon us, money is tight, but it doesn't have to be if you can handle getting pricked by a needle.

At Community Bio Resources, you cannot only help save hundreds of lives but also ease any financial burdens you may have in a matter of hours by giving plasma.

Missouri Southern students are not the only ones feeling Christmas-time financial woes.

"We get a lot of Southern students as well as Pitt State students," said Stacy Purves, a medical historian at Community Bio Resources and a junior criminal justice major at Southern.

"Everyone seems to think giving plasma would be really painful. The worst part of the whole process is getting your finger stuck, and that's not that bad."

As a medical historian, Purves sticks fingers, draws blood, and reviews medical histories.

Community Bio Resources compensates donors for their time with \$30 on their first visit and \$20 every visit after.

Donors can also get on the tetanus program and receive additional money.

Donors can give twice a week

with a 48-hour period between donations.

Money, however, is not the only objective for most donors.

"I think a lot of people give plasma because it makes them feel good about doing something that is so needed," said junior chemistry major Steve Dawley.

Dawley works at Community Bio Resources as a phlebotomist. The phlebotomist is responsible for sticking the patients and getting them hooked up to the plasma machines.

Another serious problem also motivates many to donate.

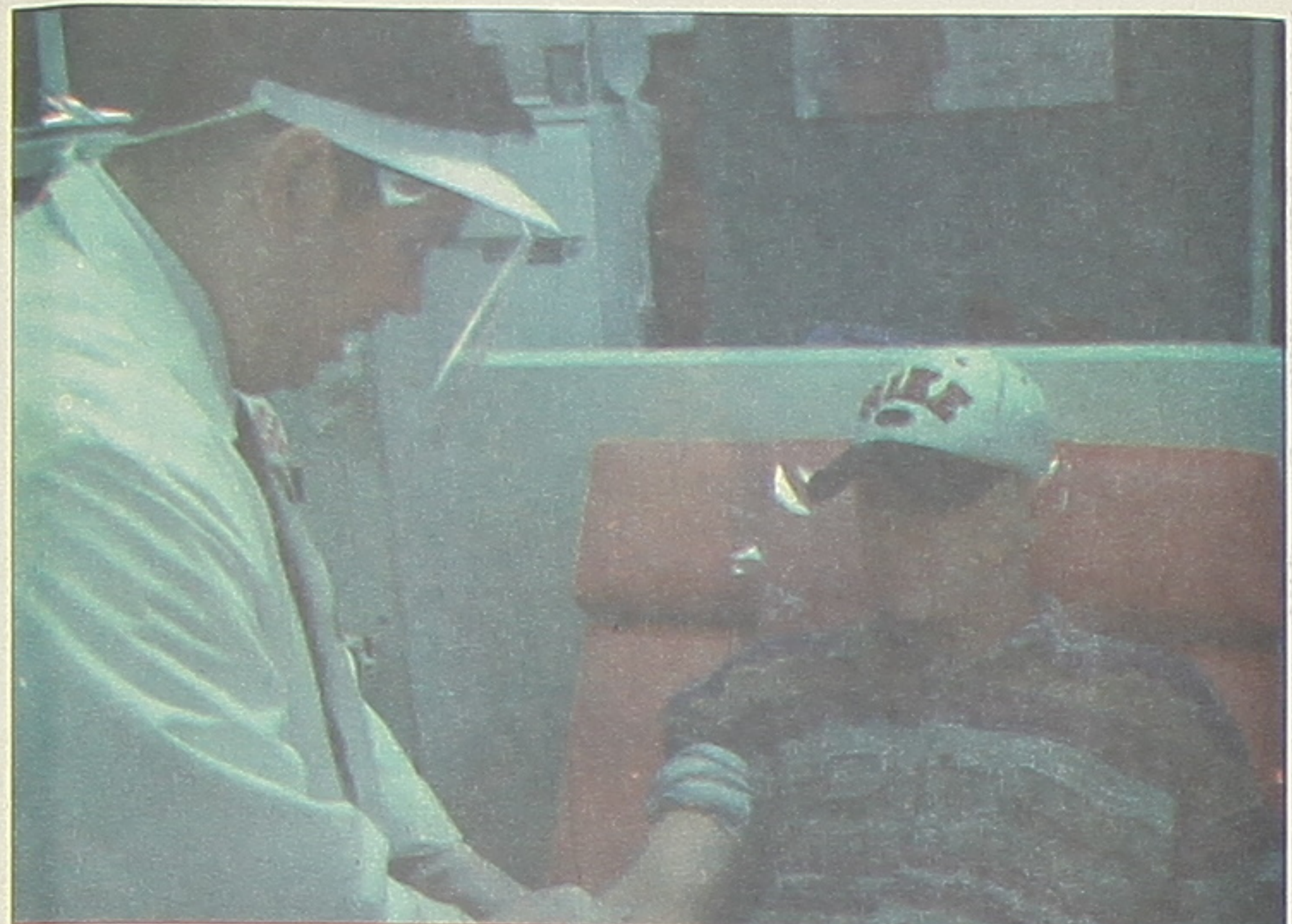
"A lot of students just come in to get tested," Purves said. "Our tests are very strict, sometimes even too strict."

Community Bio Resources tests the donated plasma for a variety of diseases, including HIV, detected through the blood.

Because the tests are so strict, sometimes the results are false.

"It's very likely that people will have positive tests, when in fact they really are not sick," Purves said. "It's important that it is tested so strictly so that no contaminated plasma is used."

Whether you're donating to help financially through the Christmas holidays, to help save lives, or to get tested, the staff at Community Bio Resources tries to make the



TIM WILSON/The Chart

Peter Edwards, freshman computer-assisted manufacturing technology major, watches intently as Jerod Arreguini draws blood at Community Bio Resources. Many students donate plasma for extra holiday cash.

donating experience as pleasant as possible.

Dawley has tried to make the donation process as pain free as possible by offering himself as a guinea pig.

"I'm the guy everybody gets to practice on before

they start sticking donors," he said.

Dawley believes a positive atmosphere is a key in the donation process.

"I just try to lighten the process up and make it as fun as possible," he said. □

HAMMONS MENTORS

Program sees results in first graduates

By JEFF WELLS
STAFF WRITER

In 1990, John Q. Hammons invested in the future of Joplin by donating funds to develop a program for area youth. The goal was to help minority and disadvantaged children to develop their potential.

Six years later, the first group of students to complete the Hammons Program is a semester away from graduation at Joplin High School.

According to Kelly Wilson, Hammons Program director, the four students who have met program requirements will receive a scholarship to cover costs, upon acceptance to Missouri Southern.

The students are required to meet with a peer mentor and attend two weekly tutorial sessions. Parents must also work to provide a home environment conducive to learning.

Wilson believes now there is evidence that the program is fulfilling one of its major goals, to demonstrate the importance of a college education to the students.

"The purpose of the mentoring program was to help these students to idealize being on this campus and getting the education they need," Wilson said.

Now that the students are older, the message has more meaning.



TIM WILSON/The Chart

Scott Morris (left) criminal justice major and Hammons Program mentor, meets with student partner Dantley Harbin, Joplin High School junior and guard on the basketball team.

"When they were younger, in the sixth grade when this started, the whole concept of going to college probably didn't mean anything to them," Wilson said. "While in high school, during their senior year, it took on a lot more significance with them."

Tracy Woods, a junior elementary education major, has been a mentor in the program for two and a half years. In that time, he has seen pressures as the students approach college.

"They are at an age when self-esteem is a problem," he said. "When things come up that would normally bring their self-esteem

down, you do things to keep it up."

A major component of the Hammons Program is the placing of the younger student with a peer mentor from Missouri Southern.

"The objective of the mentoring program is to work on self-esteem," Wilson said. "We want people who feel good about themselves."

According to Wilson, programs for the students will continue after they enroll at Southern. Wilson said the students will be matched with an upperclassman and a faculty member in their major area. □

JUNIOR HIGH LIAISON

Partnership boosts self-esteem in adolescents

College encourages academic achievement in junior high students

By AILEEN GRONEWOLD
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Missouri Southern's commitment to students begins long before they reach the College campus; in fact, it begins somewhere around the onset of acne.

As part of a business/education partnership sponsored by the Joplin Area Chamber of Commerce, Southern has taken an active interest in the students of Joplin Junior High for several years. Kelly Wilson, assistant director of counseling services, acts as the College's liaison with the junior high.

"We asked for the junior high school students because we felt that's where we could really make a difference," Wilson said. "It's a difficult time for kids, and we want to encourage them and help them feel

good about their achievements."

The College dishes out encouragement in several ways, but one of the most important is a continental breakfast to honor students who have achieved a 3.5 grade-point average. Both students and parents are invited.

"We had close to 200 students involved in the [recent] honors breakfast, and two of Missouri Southern's honors students gave motivational speeches," said Barbara Cox, Joplin Junior High counselor.

When the first semester grades are in, Southern will host the breakfast and students will receive academic letters.

"I always get letters from parents after these breakfasts," said Larry Shelley, Joplin Junior High principal. "They write to say how much the breakfast meant to their kids and how they appreciate the program."

High achievers are not the only ones receiving encouragement, however.

"For those students who have not achieved academic letters, we have what we call the 'Dig In and Do It' program," Cox said. "It honors students who have raised three grades."

Southern also participates in practical ways.

"We print programs for their music concerts, and we provide potatoes for the band's potato feed," Wilson said.

"We also started something we call 'The Closet' where we keep a supply of toiletry items and clothing for students who need them. It's located at the junior high and students access the items through the counselor."

In addition to benefiting students, the partnership helps parents through a program called the Early Bird Special.

"We have people from admissions and financial aid come and talk to parents about how to help prepare their kids if college is in their future," Wilson said.

"It doesn't just focus on college," Cox said. "We also discuss technical schools and other options following high school."

Shelley believes the partnership has a significant impact on the junior high students.

"It's hard to say whether the program has had an impact on retention, but it definitely has made a difference in student performance," he said. □

INTERSESSION

New course to demystify Web pages

By MICHAEL RASKA
ASSISTANT EDITOR

While surfing through millions of Web sites on the Internet has become a daily routine for many people, others want to be part of the Internet by having their own Web site.

Missouri Southern students are also showing their interest on how to build Internet home pages, and therefore a new course on HTML programming is being prepared.

"Students came to us asking how to do their own Web sites," said Sherman Hou, assistant professor of Asian languages and organizer of a Web designing course. "They had many questions, so we came up with an idea to create a new HTML course for them."

The Intercession course in May will give students basic knowledge of HTML programming and provide a general idea of how to build a Web site.

"We plan to start with the general basics, for example, defining terms like FTP, Internet, CGI, HTML, and etc.," Hou said. "Later they will learn how to make their own graphics, animated images, and many other forms that will be used in practice in their own home page."

One Missouri Southern student believes such a course would benefit students.

"I browse the Internet three hours a day," said Scott McCord, junior communications major. "By the time we graduate, everybody should know all the aspects of the Internet and how to make their own Web site. They will be able to provide what they know to the entire world."

Some students at Southern already have taken the initiative to create their own home pages.

"I am working on my own Web site," said Erik Svenson, a junior political science major from Sweden.

"I am learning HTML from my friend in Sweden who teaches it at a college. We e-mail each other constantly, exchanging tips and ideas."

There are many advantages for someone who knows how to program in HTML, according to Anthony Martin, senior communications major and freelance Web designer.

"The new HTML course would be a good opportunity for students to learn a skill that will enhance their hire ability," Martin said. "Webmaster will soon be as common of a job as editor. This course might shed some light on a career path, and also it will show people what's behind those pretty pages they look at."

For more information about the upcoming HTML Intercession course, students may contact Hou at 625-3106 or visit www2.hawaii.edu/~hou/. □

Arts ETC.

Friday, December 12, 1997

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THEATRE REVIEW

Play provides family excursion

By SUSIE FRISBIE
STAFF WRITER

For children, weekends are usually spent watching their favorite cartoons, playing with their friends, and just enjoying two days without school.

However, last weekend a children's play at Missouri Southern proved not only to be entertaining but also what most children usually fear most, educational. *The Stolen Prince*, a children's play based on a Chinese folk tale, was presented at Taylor Auditorium Saturday and Sunday afternoons.

By occupying only about an hour of their time, the short attention span of children was not exceeded.

The play itself was quite similar to the story of baby Moses from the Bible.

While baby Moses was sent down a river to escape death by the Egyptians, the prince in this play was also sent down a river to save a life.

The prince was stolen by the cook's children and sent floating down a river in a bucket so that he would not be killed, because baby girls were not desired.

The prince was recovered by a fisherman and his wife. The couple raised the child as their own. It wasn't until years later that the boy's true identity was uncovered.

Just as the boy was about to be put to an unjust death in front of his parents because the fisherman's duck stole a fish from the royal pond, a woman in the crowd who turned out to be the prince's aged nurse noticed the necklace the boy was wearing. It was the same necklace that had been given to the prince as a baby.

Throughout the play children learned little tidbits about China. In a break between scenes, the cast taught the audience about the Chinese tea customs as well as the major Chinese cities.

Though the play was educational, one lesson that young children may not need to understand at such young ages is the superior role that men occupy over women in Chinese culture.

However, the true intent of the play was accomplished through well-acted humorous scenes performed to provide some old-fashioned entertainment. □

MUSIC PERFORMANCE



Members of the Choral Society practice their songs for the musical group's upcoming performances.

DEBORAH SOLOMON/
The Chart

Choir prepares holiday tunes

Choral Society mixes sacred and secular music selections

By EILEEN COR
STAFF WRITER

Singers from a variety of backgrounds have been practicing Monday nights in order to perform sacred and secular music for the holidays.

The Choral Society will present a special concert with a Christmas theme at 7:30 p.m. Thursday in Phinney Recital Hall. A repeat performance will be at 3 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 21 at Joplin's First Community Church.

The Choral Society was formed in the spring of 1980 by Dr. Al Carmine, associate professor of music at Missouri Southern. Carmine has served as director and conductor.

"There are so many people who grew up singing in high school and/or college choirs who had no

outlet available to them for singing secular as well as sacred music," Carmine said. "We have singers from all kinds of backgrounds, 'bathtub' to music degrees."

"We welcome anyone who enjoys singing, and there is no audition."

The Choral Society also performs a concert in both the spring and summer.

"The summer performance is always a 'pop' concert," Carmine said.

"Spring provides a balance of offerings from classical to Broadway."

The choir is predominantly made up of adults from across the four-state area, and several Southern students are members.

Tracy Minear, junior education major, has been in the choir for a year and a half.

"The Choral Society is a good way to relax, and it's a fun and enjoyable time of singing," she said. "The people are all fun-loving and they're easy to get along with, and we just all have a good time being together." □

Coming Attractions

On Campus



Performances

■ Dec. 18 —Choral Society Concert, Phinney Hall Auditorium

TAYLOR AUDITORIUM

Jan. 28-31—The Runner Stumbles

Feb. 25-28—Guys and Dolls
April 18, 19—Beauty and the Beast

MATTHEWS AUDITORIUM

Foreign Films

Feb. 17—Il Grido (The Outcry)

March 3—Page of Madness

March 17—The Promoter

March 31—The Forty-First

April 14—The Torment

Joplin



■ Jan. 28 — Sawyer Brown, Memorial Hall

CHAMPS

782-4944

Every Tuesday—Blues Jam, open mic for musicians

Every Wednesday—Ladies night

Dec. 19, 20—Blues Blasters

Dec. 26, 27—Solace

Jan. 2, 3—King Friday

Jan. 9, 10—Cool Shorts

Jan. 16, 17—Vic Vaughan

Jan. 23, 24—Razen Kane

Jan. 30, 31—Jokers Wild

THE BYPASS

624-9095

Dec. 26—Oreo Blue

Dec. 27—Walking on Einstein

Dec. 31—King Friday

Jan. 9, 10—Cate Brothers

Jan. 17—Live Comedy

Jan. 24—Walking on Einstein

Jan. 31—King Friday

Kansas City

THE BEAUMONT

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Dec. 16—Seven Mary Three

St. Louis

AMERICAN THEATRE

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Dec. 17—Jars of Clay

KIEL CENTER

Jan. 24—Elton John

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CD REVIEW

Metallica hoax reaches climax

By BRIAN PALMER
STAFF WRITER

I don't want to alarm anyone, but I have definitive proof space aliens are visiting this planet and taking people with them.

I am referring, of course, to the new album released by space alien impostors under the guise of Metallica. The sad thing is, people are actually falling for this obvious deception.

I had an opportunity to listen to *Reload*, and I can tell you one thing — this is not Metallica. Oh sure, that sounds vaguely like James Hetfield's voice, but listen to the guitars. Listen carefully, or you might miss it.

Did you catch it? Right! That's not the speed metal that Metallica all but invented in the early 80s! No, that's... alterna-grunge???

Well, I don't need to tell all you Metallica fans out there that Metallica doesn't play alterna-grunge.

No. Metallica plays "speed metal," or "thrash metal," or whatever you want to call it.

But the bottom line here is Metallica plays heavy metal, and *Reload* is not metal at all, so it couldn't possibly be Metallica; it must be space alien impostors posing

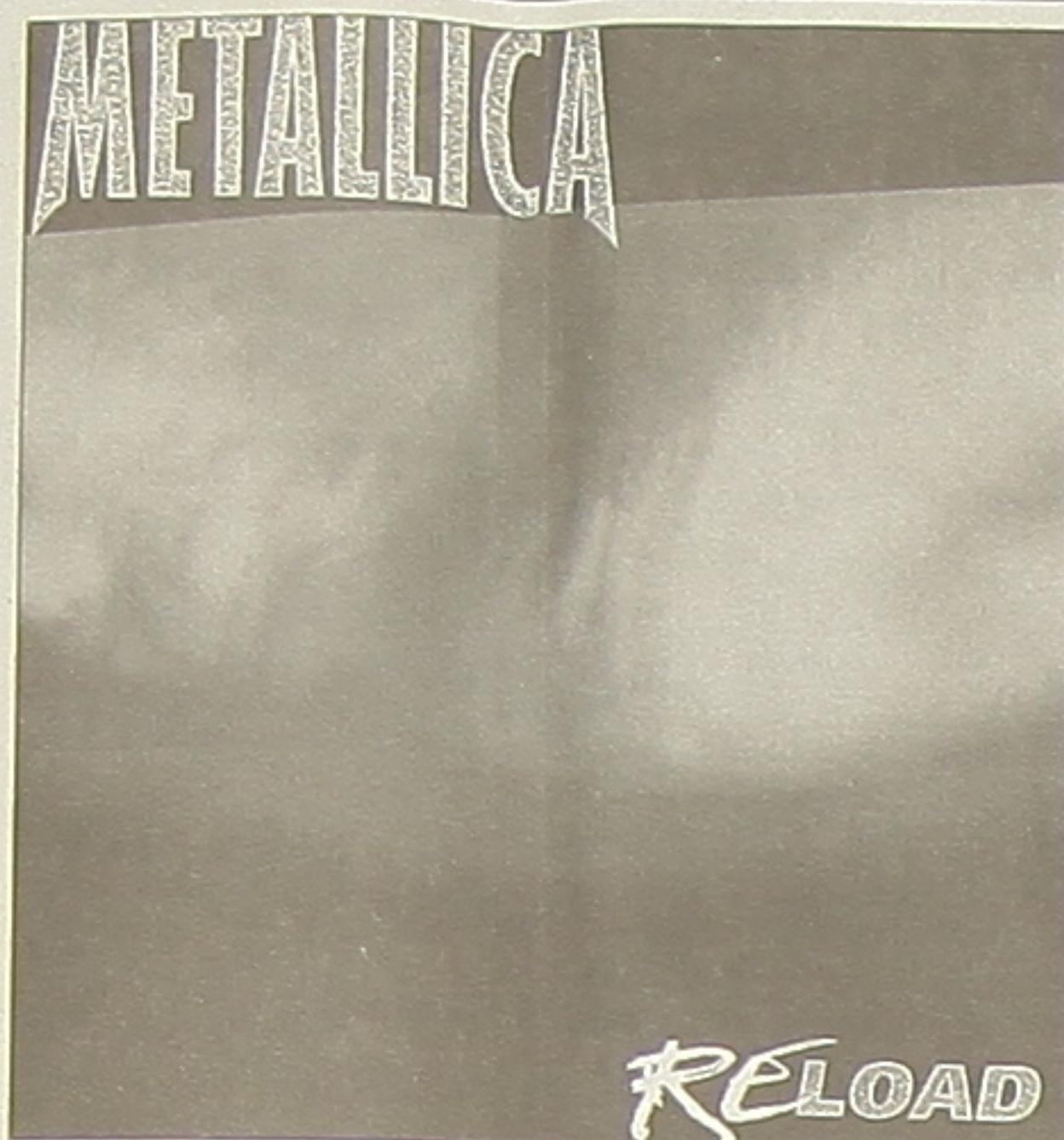
as Metallica (so we earthlings wouldn't get suspicious), while the real Metallica hurtles through space at warp 8, entertaining a bunch of bug-eyed, tentacled head-bangers from the planet Moog.

As evidence: the album's first track (remember the album? *Reload*? It's what we were talking about) "Fuel" is a semi-fast paced grunge offering that reminds me of Stone Temple Pilots (when they were making rock albums, not lounge-lizard music). Now don't get me wrong — I like STP — but it's not Metallica.

Next we have the latest single "The Memory Remains," a track littered with irony as the chorus rings: "fortune, fame/ mirror vain/ gone insane/ but the memory remains." That memory would be the memory of the real Metallica; the memory of great albums like *Ride the Lightning*, and of course the immortal *Master of Puppets*.

No, the only memory of Metallica this disc offers is the totally uninspired "The Unforgiven II," and that memory is of a Metallica barely holding on to its metal roots.

Here's the kicker: the high point on this album is "Low Man's Lyric," a tune which sounds like Crash Test Dummies meet The Doors' Ray Manzera on Valium in the Scottish highlands.



Metallica's *Reload* serves to reinforce the alien abduction theory.

Wait! There's more! The alien impostor "Zargon," who is playing the part of drummer Lars Ulrich, has obviously studied the part, but cannot execute with Ulrich's reliably spastic tendencies. The track "Bad Seed" proves this; there's a taste of Ulrich in there, but only a taste. It's incredibly disappointing.

I'll tell you what: Metallica being captured by space aliens is the simplest solution. Think about it.

Metallica — the band that gave us *Kill 'Em All* — releasing an album like *Load*, and following it

up with *Reload*? It's just too outlandish. However, if you watch those amazing Sunday night documentaries "The X Files," you know that we are regularly visited by space aliens. This is not outlandish.

The sad thing here is when the aliens stole Hendrix from us, they faked his death so we wouldn't have to deal with a cheap Hendrix knock-off. However with Metallica, the aliens have opted to torture us with impostors. I hope they are planning to return Metallica to us. I can dream, can't I? □

HOLIDAY ACTIVITIES

Epic Brass Quintet revives holiday vibe

Southern students step into spotlight

By JEFF BILLINGTON
STAFF WRITER

Have endless hours of Christmas shopping and standing in lines at the mall ruined the spirit of the Christmas season?

At 7:30 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 19 in Taylor Auditorium, a Christmas concert presented by the Epic Brass Quintet may be just the thing to revive those holiday feelings.

Frederick Laas, president of the Joplin Community Concert Association (JCCA), said he expects good results for this concert due to the success of past venues.

"One of the most successful concerts we've ever had was a brass concert," he said.

Laas said during one of the songs the Epic Brass will invite four guest players to sit in with it.

"The Epic Brass had sent us some sheet music as tryouts for brass players from the local high schools," Laas said. "Three of those students were selected by a panel of judges."

Don Rowland, Joplin Junior High band director and music specialist, said he believes the four students who have been chosen are being given a wonderful opportunity for community exposure.

"These students are getting the chance to work with real professional musicians," Rowland said.

Laas said JCCA members were polled last spring on what types of concerts would be presented in Joplin.

"Ensembles was one of the more popular ones they addressed," he said.

Laas said the JCCA has been disappointed with the number of Southern students attending previous concerts the organization sponsored.

"I bet at the last concert we didn't have more than a dozen or so attend," he said.

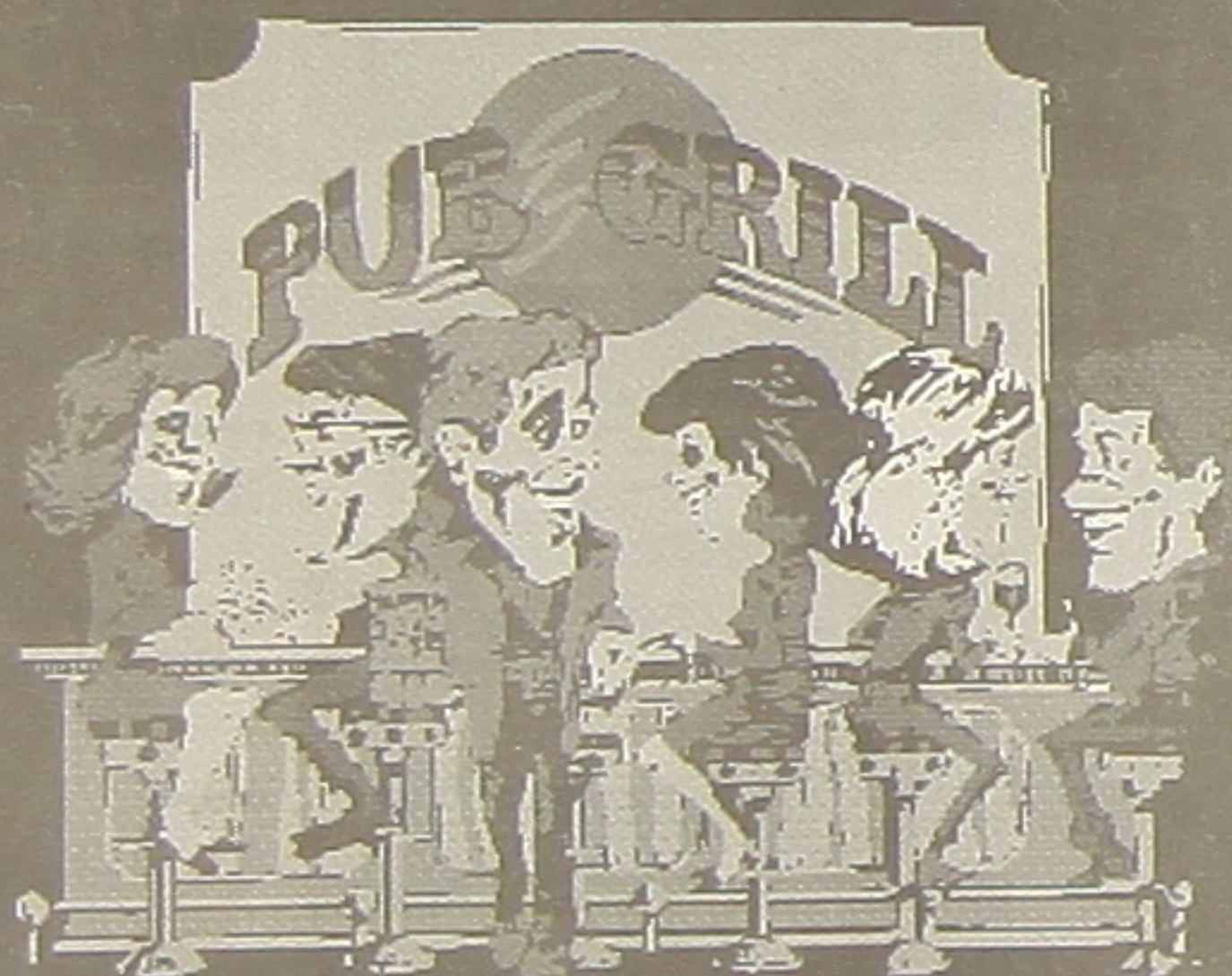
Laas said because students are able to attend free with their Southern ID, it is an affordable way to experience culture.

"I know when *Phantom of the Opera* was down in Tulsa," he said, "the cheapest ticket was about \$50."

"We would certainly like to encourage the young people to come to this concert." □



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DEBORAH SOLOMON/The Chart

A very merry

SOUTHERN Christmas



TERESA BLAND/The Chart

Showing off their door decoration, Alison Wright, (top) freshman elementary education major, and Grace Callison, freshman accounting major, celebrate Christmas at Southern.

A Reynolds Hall Christmas

*'Twas the week before Christmas and
throughout Reynolds Hall,
Not a student was stirring, they'd
gone, one and all.*

*The classrooms were empty, the
erasers were still,
The chalkboards were clean, all
ready for Bill.*

*Billy and Sue were waxing again,
Santa's list tells just how good they
have been.*

*Test tubes were washed, Gretchen put
them away,
Then hurried back home to await
reindeer and sleigh.*

*The Butterball Project has been put
on hold,
In January next year they'll start
some new mold.*

*Faculty offices were dark, behind key
and lock,
Diane and Betty were still on the
clock!*

*Dr. Vazquez is in a department
heads' meeting,
He'd better hurry...shopping time's
fleeting!*

*Bah-Hum-Bug himself is enjoying the
moment,
He's stalking the halls for someone to
torment!*



TERESA BLAND/The Chart

Members of the International Club play and sing Christmas carols for various students on the 3rd floor of Webster Hall Wednesday afternoon. Several groups on campus have been performing carols.

*Dr. Messick's still here, does he ever leave?
There's work to be done, it's just Christmas Eve.
He hears a great noise, what could be the
cause?
Did Pat trip the alarm? Oh, no! Santa Claus!*

*John peers round the corner and sees a red suit,
The sack that he carries is just filled with loot!*

*Computers for John, test swabs for Jerry,
Something for Chip, Russ, Mel, and Mary!*

*The list is endless, too many to mention,
Santa sits for a spell, then snaps to attention!
He's gone in a flash, oh my, what a sight!
John decides he'll go HOME, and to all a good
night!*

*Be it known to all (especially John Knapp),
This was written in an hour, in my pajamas
and cap.*

—Diane Vann



TERESA BLAND/The Chart

Oleg Gyurikov, sophomore economics and finance major, puts the finishing touches on a miniature Christmas tree.



Showing off some holiday spirit, Jennifer Terrey, freshman nursing major, and Chet Wampler, senior health promotion and wellness gather by a decorated door in the apartments on campus.

TERESA BLAND
The Chart

COMMUNICATIONS DEPARTMENT

Trip focuses on international journalism

By MARLA HINKLE
STAFF WRITER

A chance to explore and discover new opportunities for journalism students is a project that is of great interest to Missouri Southern's communications department and Institute of International Studies.

Richard Massa, director of international studies; Dr. Chad Stebbins, associate professor of communications and adviser to *The Chart*; and Dr. Maryann Weber, associate professor of foreign languages, spent Thanksgiving week in France and Germany hoping to develop collaborative agreements between Southern and seven schools of journalism.

"We went over there with several purposes in mind, one of which was to start an international student publication at Southern," Stebbins said.

"Students from around the globe would write articles and send us photos for a tabloid-format newspaper that we would publish every spring."

"We went to Europe with the hope that we would find students there who would be interested in writing for our publication. They would write stories about themselves, their universities, their cities, their hopes and fears, even political commentary. Our students would get to read about life in these other countries."

Stebbins said Missouri Southern

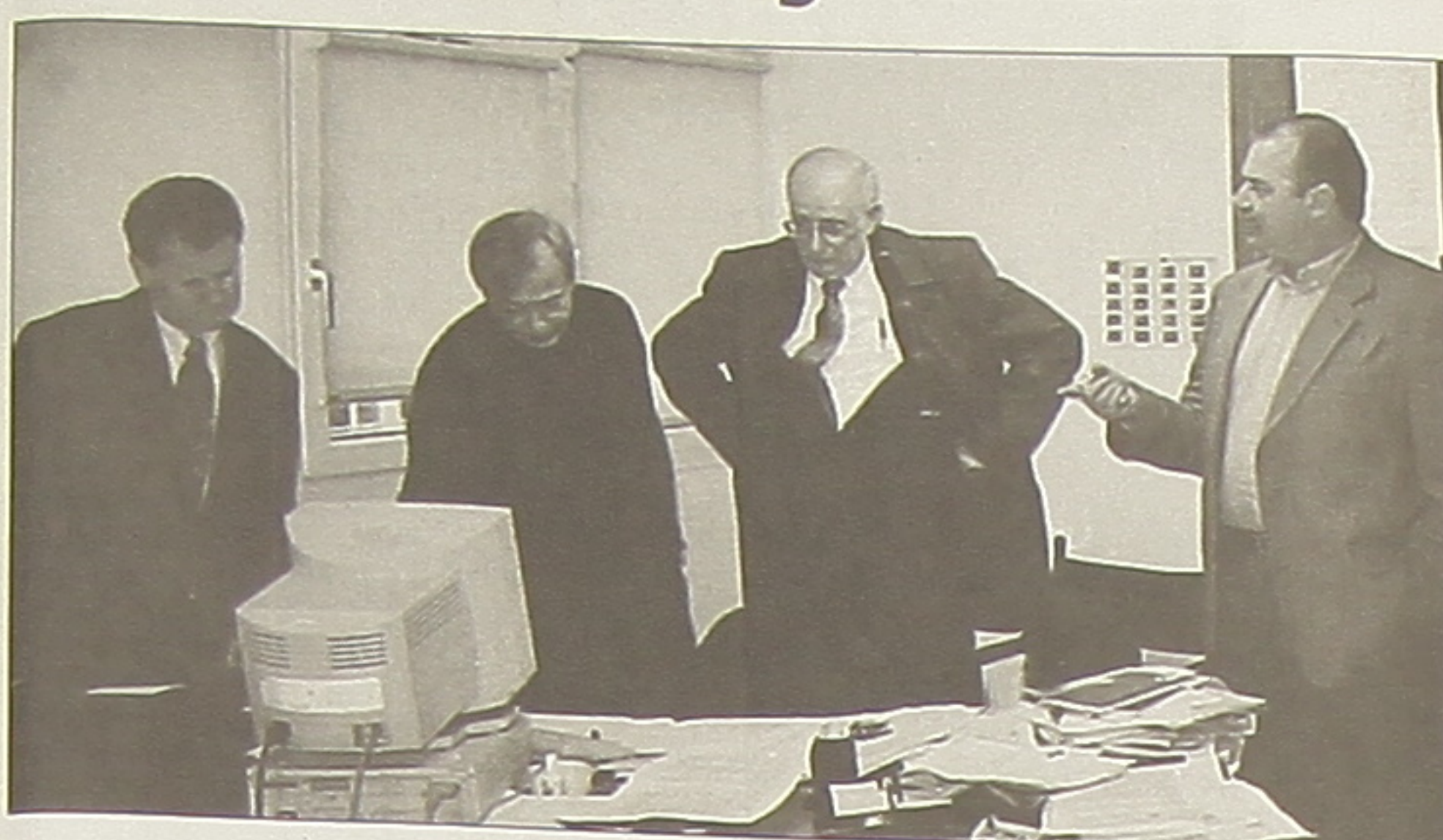
also hopes to establish a world journalism center on campus by the year 2000. Students from abroad would come over for three-week summer workshops that would include on-campus classes, guest lectures, and hands-on experience in the communications department laboratories. At the end of the three weeks, students would be assigned to internships with area media.

Massa, Stebbins, and Weber also discussed the possibility of student exchanges and Southern students serving media internships abroad.

"We discovered that there may be a language problem with our students who wish to spend an entire semester or year abroad," Stebbins said. "We require our communications majors to take 12 hours of a foreign language, but that may not be enough for them to function adequately in these other countries. They may need some additional language training here or once they reach their destination."

Stebbins said a more likely possibility was one- or two-week study tours for Southern students. The American University of Paris, the Center for the Study of International Communications, and the Deutsch Journalistenschule in Munich all expressed interest in designing study tours.

"They would bring in media experts to speak to our group, and the sessions would be conducted in English," Stebbins said. "And



MARYANN WEBER/SPECIAL TO THE CHART

Max Kieffer (right), a journalism instructor at the Centre Universitaire d'Enseignement du Journalisme in Strasbourg, France, makes a point to Richard Massa (second from right), director of Missouri Southern's Institute of International Studies, and Dr. Chad Stebbins (far left), associate professor of communications. Massa and Stebbins also met with Xavier Delcourt (second from left), the director of international relations.

our students would be able to live with their students and experience a different culture that way."

Stebbins said the journalism and communications programs in France and Germany seemed to be more popular than those in the United States.

"At the Centre Universitaire d'Enseignement du Journalisme in Strasbourg, France, they admit only 40 students from the 500 who apply each year," he said.

"And at the Deutsch

Journalistenschule in Munich, 2,000 students apply each year but only 45 are admitted."

Massa, Stebbins, and Weber also visited four journalism schools in Paris and the Institut fuer Kommunikationswissenschaft in Munich.

They capped their trip by spending a day in Ansbach, Germany, where Massa signed a collaborative agreement on Southern's behalf. (See related story, page one.)

"The trip was fast moving, ener-

gizing, exciting, and invigorating," Massa said. "I found the trip to be very beneficial to Southern. There are many exciting opportunities for journalism students here and abroad."

Weber said her primary role in the trip was one of a translator.

"I also set up all travel arrangements and appointments and was helpful in showing Mr. Massa and Dr. Stebbins some of the highlights of the cities, as I have been here before," she said. □

ISEP

Swedish experience offers diversity, opportunities

By BRIAN PALMER
STAFF WRITER

For many, the roots of home are too strong to take a chance in a new world. It takes a person with courage to uproot their life for the sake of discovery.

Adam Granicz, sophomore computational math major, is one such person. He recently left the United States and Missouri Southern to study abroad with the International Student Exchange Program (ISEP) at Karlstad University in Sweden. What is remarkable about this is it's not the first time Granicz has done this; in high school, he left his native country of Hungary to study in the U.S.

"I spent a year at Diamond High School as a senior before going to Southern," he said via e-mail from Sweden. "After graduation, I had the choice of either going back to high school for a year to graduate or going to college in the states. Naturally, I picked the second choice."

Then he chose to pursue his education overseas once more with ISEP.

"Adam is a very thorough person," said Nadine Schmidt, assistant to the vice president for academic affairs at Southern. "So when he came to talk to me, he had some idea of what he wanted to study. He was interested in going someplace in Europe, and he was particularly interested in Sweden."

Granicz sees his exchange as more than a chance to study abroad — for him it's the

"experience of a lifetime." That experience, however, is tempered with the bitter flavor of leaving everything behind.

"Usually you don't start to miss your family and friends until a few months later, but then it is coming at you really hard," Granicz said. "I am not the 'homesick' type of person, especially after three years now, but it is still hard at times to be away from everyone I love."

Granicz has learned to adapt, however, and turn even the rough parts into a learning experience.

"Three years ago I was much more inexperienced than I am now," he said. "I was that 'always ready to go' kind of teenager. After a few weeks in the states, I started to realize that things were just not working the way they did in Hungary. It was quite a big culture shock, coming from around Budapest to go to a small farm and living there for a year."

It didn't take long for Granicz to make the adjustment. After about two months in the U.S., he "magically" began to enjoy farm life, as well as the way things work in the states.

"The second year was just like if I was in Hungary," he said. "I knew the things around me, and I bought a car and went everywhere I could to see new things. Missouri will always be my second home."

He used that experience to help him adjust to his exchange in Sweden.

"I did not sit around and think about the good ole days, how much better it was in the states or Hungary. I just tried to enjoy things the way they were," he said. "Soon I was having more fun than ever before, new friends emerged, and every day passed with something new." □



Granicz

HIGHER EDUCATION BRIEFS

Central Missouri lowers student housing costs

A plan to lower student housing costs, with an emphasis on providing private accommodations, has been approved by the Board of Governors at Central Missouri State University.

The plan adopted by the board will reduce room costs by almost \$100 per semester for private and double rooms, and will include free parking, basic cable, and local telephone and Internet access. It will be implemented for the 1998 fall semester.

"The new emphasis for housing will be more private rooms for upper-class students," said Sonny Castro, Central's assistant vice president for student affairs. "Most students are used to having their own room at home, and our goal is to more closely duplicate that environment on campus to maximize academic success."

The plan sets the private room rate at \$1,700 per semester, a \$95 reduction over the current cost. Double room rates will be reduced from \$1,346 to \$1,250, down \$96 per semester.

In addition to trimming housing costs, Central will add a new option to make campus living more attractive. A limited number of economy suites, which will be unfurnished two-room units, will be available with a 10-month contract and priced at \$420 per month.

Patrick Bradley, director of university housing, said the new housing rates will make Central more competitive with housing costs in the private sector. □

Southeast joins group located in Netherlands

Southeast Missouri State University has joined the Maastricht Center for Transatlantic Studies (MCTS), a consortium arrangement that will bring faculty and students together from six American and six foreign institutions in a single location.

The Maastricht Center, located in the southeastern part of the Netherlands, will operate on a semester-long basis with students taking four courses. Students will take one course on an intensive basis in each of four 3 1/2-week study blocks, rather than taking courses simultaneously. Faculty will be drawn from all member universities of the Transatlantic Studies consortium.

All MCTS courses are offered in English. Students will be housed in the modern dormitory facilities of Teikyo University in Maastricht. With only 100,000 inhabitants, Maastricht is a relatively small city by European standards, but has a multitude of shops, restaurants, department stores, and an enormous open air market.

Other U.S. members of the consortium include Central Missouri State University, Saint Louis University, Eastern Illinois University, and Ball State University. □

SMSU reaccredited for 10 years by AACSB

The college of business administration at Southwest Missouri State University has been reaccredited for 10 years by the American Assembly of Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB).

The college's school of accountancy currently holds an additional accreditation from AACSB. This level of accreditation places the college among the top 10 percent of business programs in the country.

Of the roughly 1,300 business schools in the United States, 330 have AACSB accreditation; of those, 130 have the additional accounting accreditation.

A five-member peer review team visited SMSU in October. Among the strengths noted by the team were state-of-the-art facilities in Glass Hall and the development of new programs in entertainment management and health care administration. □

INTERNATIONAL MISSION

Institute services campus

By J.L. GRIFFIN
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

When the vision for Missouri Southern's international mission was beginning to be realized, there was also the vision for the Institute for International Studies.

"From the very beginning it was planned that there would be one entity that would be in charge of international studies," said Richard Massa, director of the institute.

However, that wouldn't exclude anyone from having input into the program, he said.

"The departments themselves want to be a part of the mission enhancement," said College President Julio Leon. "The institute is essentially the mechanism by which we implement the mission."

Tucked away in the corner office of the third floor of Webster Hall, Massa plots the course of the institute. Location doesn't play much of a factor, he says. Faculty all over campus are familiar with the institute office.

Leon acknowledges there may come a time when the institute needs to find a new home, but that is all in the future.

"I can visualize where there will be a need for more space," he said. "I really don't expect it to get much bigger than it is."

Since the formation of the institute in July 1996, Massa and his staff have been planning the future of Southern's international mission with results that both the director and College president are pleased with.

"I think that it's going very well ... the implementation of the mission has done very well in certain areas and we are very

“ We are very optimistic about traveling abroad options for students.

Dr. Julio Leon
College president

”

pleased and very optimistic about traveling abroad options for students," Leon said.

Massa sees the progress of the institute as promising, but not without its early difficulties.

"It's exactly like I imagined it was going to be, which is to say we are beginning," he said. "We are beginning. We have barely scratched the surface. It is a slow building process."

An area Massa said he's working to improve is the communication from the various departments on campus. He said a lack of communication is hindering the institute from reaching its full potential.

When the international mission plan was being hammered out, a task force made up of faculty and administration put the wheels in motion to initiate the institute. Leon said the organizational structure of the institute was planned by the task force.

Even though few people actually work for the institute, Leon said faculty and administration are still quite vocal about the institute's activities. □

MSTV

New program offers area viewers 'window on the world'

KGCS-LP series focuses on international travels

By KIKI COFFMAN
STAFF WRITER

People too busy to drop everything and travel around the world may decide to watch "Window on the World: A Southern Exposure," a new series of television programs offered by KGCS-LP.

"Basically, we're looking at the different aspects of the international mission, whether that's international travel, or studies, or programs that are brought to campus that tie into the international mission," said Judy Stiles, general manager of KGCS-LP.

The show, with its tie to Missouri

Southern's international mission, showcases news of an itinerant nature.

Guests on the new programs include students and faculty who have traveled overseas or come from countries abroad.

"Window on the World: A Southern Exposure" has already prepared programs featuring the school of education and the student teachers who were sent to England; Dr. Barry Brown, associate professor of philosophy, on his trip to Israel; and the International Club.

The program airs at 8 p.m. Sundays. Starting Jan. 25, it will move to 7:30 p.m. Sundays and also be shown at 11 a.m. Thursdays.

"There are so many different ideas out there," Stiles said. "I have a file that is just full of ideas, of people to interview.... we've

just touched the tip of the iceberg on what we can do."

Stiles stressed that the interviews aren't the ordinary travel diaries that pander to travelers' blander, more oratorical sides.

"It's more than just travel logs of 'where I went' and 'what I saw' and that type of thing," she said. "We hope to try to show to the others on campus as well as the community how these kinds of experiences are helping the College campus."

Planning the series wasn't especially difficult, although preparing for the show provoked a few creative ideas.

"Over the summer they did a backdrop with a huge globe on the back, and every time we end the show we get a camera shot of wherever the guest is from," said Danny Craven, student producer of the series.

"It took a little time getting the behind-the-scenes things," Stiles said.

"We had a contest to choose the name of the show, which is the first time we've tried something like that. It was fun getting the responses, and our station staff judged and chose the winner," she said.

Stiles and Craven anticipate a favorable response to "Window on the World: A Southern Exposure."

"We're finding there are so many people who are traveling or tying into the international mission that there are an endless number of topics," Stiles said.

"There are a lot of great opportunities. That's one thing that hopefully with the series we're showing people — the different opportunities and ways they can get involved," she said. □

INSTITUTE: Partnership calls for joint degrees, travel with German college

From Page 1

"As the [Missouri] Southern mission unfolds, we are getting more opportunities for faculty and students to go abroad," Bitterbaum said. "ISEP (Inter-national Student Exchange Program) will provide us with a good model for our exchange program. The students pay their fees to the home institution. They are still responsible for their transportation and incidentals, though."

Massa said student exchanges

will not begin in the immediate future because Fachhochschule is not yet capable of providing room and board for students.

He said the president had recently concluded negotiations for the construction of residence halls, a student union, and a cafeteria when he arrived in Ansbach.

The preparation for this agreement began when Dr. Sabine Cramer, an assistant professor of German, was unable to leave

Germany and return to Missouri Southern after spring break.

"Because of various difficulties she was not able to leave Germany," Massa said. "She taught her classes from Germany by means of telephone and two-way video."

"By means of exchanges we had between myself and the staff and faculty in Ansbach, we decided we wanted to start a relationship."

Ansbach mirrors Joplin in size

with a population hovering around 45,000.

The city lies southeast of Munich and just west of Nuremberg.

The university is built on the site of a former U.S. military installation. Ansbach will celebrate its 1,250th birthday in 1998.

"We truly hope to develop more of these (agreements) in the future," Bitterbaum said. "I think this will facilitate it." □

GRADUATION: December grads receive little attention until May ceremonies

From Page 1

invitations must be limited in May.

Still, some students feel cheated to have to settle for a Polaroid version of their Kodak moment. For the third consecutive year, December grads asked for a formal ceremony. College President Julio Leon addressed the issue at a recent Student Senate meeting.

"We've had this request for the last three years and that is why we started having the reception

two years ago," he said. "The requests continue because the number of graduates is increasing."

According to Leon, the cost of adding a December ceremony is the main obstacle.

"The numbers have not been there," he said. "It's expensive, and it's a difficult time of year. We are continuing to look into it."

"We used to have a summer graduation ceremony several years ago, but it was discontinued for economic reasons, I believe."

While a formal December ceremony might be

added in the future, this year's graduates will have to come back in May if they want to walk across the stage.

Jennifer Droz, senior elementary major, conducted an informal poll of December grads to find out how many wanted the formal ceremony.

"I called around 40 people, and I found that all of them would prefer to have a formal ceremony in December," she said. "A lot of them said they couldn't come back or didn't want to." □

COACHES: Two turn down Frazier

From Page 1

Evans said he applied for the head coaching position before the 1997 season ended.

"As far as I know, I have not received one (a letter)," he said. "I haven't interviewed with the search committee yet, but I think there is a good chance that I will. There have been several letters that have gone to the committee recommending me."

"I think they (the committee) have been attempting to make a thorough decision. I know it is a long process."

Last week the committee brought in two candidates for final interviews: Eric Holm, head coach at Northern Michigan University, and R.E. "Rocky" Hager, an assistant coach at Temple University.

"They brought in two guys for the team to interview," Cornelsen said. "They pretty much made it clear we were to pick one of those two guys."

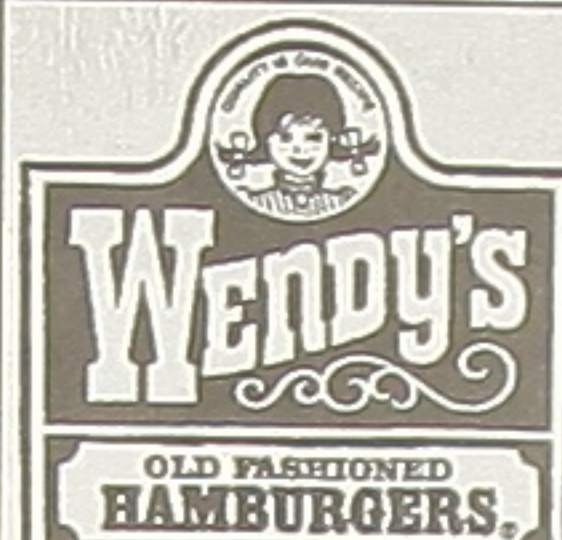
The team reportedly preferred Holm, who had posted a 21-10 record in three seasons at Northern Michigan. Holm was 37-19 in five seasons at Northeast Missouri State

University (now Truman State) and led the Bulldogs to NCAA Division II playoff appearances in 1990, 1992, and 1994. The search committee reportedly offered the job to Holm, but he declined. Holm was unavailable for comment.


Hager, head coach at North Dakota State University from 1987-96, then took himself out of contention for the Southern position. Hager said he had met Frazier in 1995 when Frazier served as an NCAA regional representative and NDSU met Pittsburg State in the Division II playoffs.

"I enjoyed the area and thought it might be a good place to stay," Hager said. "We just hired a new head coach [at Temple] and I have been offered the opportunity to stay here. And having just moved here in August, I thought it would be wise to stay here."

Also rumored to be in contention for the job is Southern graduate Marty Galbraith. Galbraith, now a high school coach, was a defensive back on Frazier's 1972 NAIA national championship team and is a member of the Southern Athletic Hall of Fame. □




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Sports SCOPE

Ladies lose, men win, am I going batty?

I'd like to take this time to apologize for being away for so long — I'm sorry, forgive me. OK, we've got a lot of work to do, so let's get started.

In case you lost track of our beloved women's basketball team during the two weeks The Chart has been away, I'll take this opportunity

to catch you up. Head coach Amy Townsend and her team took off for a tourney in beautiful Cancun Nov. 21-22. Ahh, Cancun — the atmosphere, the scenery, a good time for all. Oh yeah, they



Nick Parker
Managing Editor

played some basketball, too. Let me rephrase that: The Lady Cubs attended a basketball school there and failed.

Missouri Southern was purely and simply walloped, 83-28 by Bentley College. We're talking a record-breaking defeat here.

As my roommate and editor J.L. Griffin put it, "The Lady Lions should have been forced to walk home as punishment, and Coach Townsend should have carried the luggage."

I guess I should give Southern (1-6) some credit for finally winning a game Saturday against Henderson State, 64-55.

I know this is harsh, but look at the talent on the Southern roster. There is no reason why this Lady Lion team should fall flat on their faces.

The Lady Cubs have an opportunity to avenge an earlier loss Saturday at Young Gymnasium when Arkansas Tech comes to town. The Golden Suns throttled Southern 80-62 in their season opener Nov. 18.

Lincoln University heads to Southern for a Dec. 20 match-up, closing out Southern's pre-holiday non-conference schedule.

Beating Arkansas Tech is a must. Townsend and her cubs should have no problem with Lincoln. I know a three-game winning streak isn't much, but we gotta think baby steps here.

I don't know who showed whom the money in the MIAA scheduling department, but Southern caught a break by opening its conference season at Lincoln Jan. 3. Southern then takes a non-conference break at Rockhurst College Jan. 5 before coming home for a game against long-time cellar-dweller Southwest Baptist University on Jan. 7.

So, Southern has the ability to go at least 4-1 in that stretch. They will need the momentum as they hit the heart of the MIAA schedule.

I never thought I'd say this during my career at Southern, but kudos to the men's basketball squad.

At the beginning of the season, head coach Robert Corn said he and his team were out to prove they were better than their fifth place pre-season ranking. The Lions hold a 63 record going into tonight's match-up against Rockhurst College.

My one major disappointment for this season: Friday's 76-67 loss to NAIA William Jewell. Southern beat Jewell 85-75 on Nov. 22, only to fall to the same Cardinals two weeks later. An NCAA Division II school simply cannot lose to an NAIA opponent.

Hot news update — Southern still hasn't found a new head football coach.

There is a simple solution to this problem. Keep Rob Green, who went 4-0 while serving as the interim head coach.

This should be a no-brainer. The fans liked watching a four-game winning streak and most importantly, the players want to play for this guy. □

SPORTS SCENE

Friday, December 12, 1997

CROSS COUNTRY

She's goin' to the chapel

By GINNY DUMOND
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

In between winning her second All-American title and training for indoor track season, junior standout Sonia Blacketer will make some time for a stop at the altar.

Blacketer will wed junior physical education major Robert Eudy on Dec. 20, then be back in routine training after their Colorado honeymoon.

"He'll be done next fall, but he wanted to take me skiing and you go skiing in the winter," Blacketer said.

Another reason for getting married the day after her last final is that Blacketer and her fiance wanted to have all of their friends present.

"We wanted to do it while people were still here, and a lot of our friends go home in the summertime," Blacketer said.

Running 10 hours a day, carrying a full class load, working two jobs, and planning a wedding may seem to be too much to handle, but Blacketer seems to be taking it in stride.

"Oh yeah, I'm stressed," she said. "Wedding plans are going great; I haven't ordered the programs yet and I have a wedding in a week, but that's OK."

Senior runner Amanda Harrison will be serving as a bridesmaid for Blacketer.

"They are just two outstanding young ladies," said Patty Vavra, women's track and cross country coach. "That's something you hope your athletes gain is life-long friendships."

Blacketer's 19th-place finish at cross country nationals in Kenosha, Wis., on Nov. 22 showed her to be a strong finisher.

"Sonia didn't have her best race, but she found a way to battle through it and gain her second All-

"

She's had a stellar year—a remarkable, brilliant year, especially when you consider all the outside things happening in her life.

Patty Vavra

Head women's cross country coach

"

American status in two years," Vavra said.

"She's had a stellar year — a remarkable, brilliant year, especially when you consider all the outside things happening in her life."

Blacketer says she had a good nationals experience and that she was glad to have the opportunity.

"I think that's what you work for all year," she said. "I'm not one of those people who goes out there and runs 10 miles a day for the fun of it. I think it's a competition."

Now, with the wedding close at hand, Blacketer says she will be doing some running on her honeymoon and will return to prepare for the indoor track season.

"In indoor I compete mainly in the 5,000 meters," she said. "Indoor's a time of preparation for the circle."

Vavra says she thinks marriage is a positive move for the couple, and that Eudy and Blacketer are encouraging to one another.

"They're really supportive of each other and what they do," she said. "I think that's really going to be a key to her continued success." □



TERESA BLAND/The Chart

Junior Sonia Blacketer is taking time between becoming a two-time All-American and indoor track season to get married.

ATHLETE FEATURE

Southern's sisters: Same name, same game

By ANDRE SMITH
STAFF WRITER



Shelby Wyatt (33) and Stacy Wyatt (45) are sisters attending Missouri Southern who are sharing both a last name and a home court this season on the Lady Lions basketball squad.

TIM WILSON/The Chart

If Shelby and Stacy Wyatt were to play a one-on-one basketball game for a million dollar prize, you would see a heck of a game, according to the sisters.

The Stillwater, Okla., natives could not determine who would win because their strengths and weaknesses complement each other.

Stacy, a freshman education major, said Shelby, who is visibly the stronger of the two, is a typical post player.

"She's a strong defensive player," Stacy said. "It's not fun when Shelby guards you. I can't get inside on her very much."

Shelby agreed, but said it is not always a good thing when her sister is concerned.

"When I bang her around it gives her an excuse to shoot a long jumper in my face," Shelby said. Since they have been playing together for so long, they admit to knowing exactly what the other will do.

"She knows that if I dribble right, that I'll turn that way and shoot," Stacy said.

"If I'm outside, she'll try to keep me out there because my offensive game isn't as good as hers," Shelby added. "If it was her offense against my offense, she'd win. If it was my defense against her defense, I'd win."

Shelby, 20, transferred to Missouri Southern from Bacone Junior College, where she averaged nine points and 11 rebounds per game as a sophomore. The junior dental hygiene major was an all-state selection at Stillwater High School her senior year, averaging eight points and 10 rebounds a contest.

In junior college she was recruited by Southern and Trevecca Nazarene in Nashville. Shelby said she chose Southern for many reasons.

"I asked Stacy if she wanted me to go to the same school as her, and she acted like she did," Shelby said. "If I went to Nazarene, I wouldn't have been able to go right into dental hygiene. I would have had to major in biology, and I didn't want to do that."

Stacy, 18, was a two-time All-Frontier Conference selection who averaged 15.7 points and 7.1 rebounds as a senior. She was heavily recruited by junior colleges, but she wanted to attend a four-year college.

"I had so many junior colleges recruit me and Southern was my only four-year offer," she said. "I wanted to be able to get to know my coach, and that's why I appreciate Coach Townsend so much."

"Shelby threw people around and was a very good defensive player," Townsend said.

Townsend has high hopes for Stacy as well. She had a season-high seven points against Henderson State and also showed scoring capabilities during the Lady Lions' tournament in Cancun.

"Stacy is a very deceptive athlete," Townsend said. "I'm really glad I got her as a four-year player. She will be a good player for us, especially as she gets stronger."

Although the two share a close relationship, they said there are times when they get a little annoyed with each other — especially in practice.

Since Stacy is the younger of the sisters, she is lovingly called Baby Wyatt by Townsend.

In reference to the one-on-one game, Townsend said it would be a hard-fought contest.

"It would be decided by one or two points," she said, "but no matter who won, they would walk off the court arm in arm." □

MEN'S BASKETBALL

Lions gear up for conference season

By GINNY DUMOND
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Following a decisive 10-point victory against William Jewell earlier in the season, the Missouri Southern basketball Lions were the objects of revenge Dec. 5 when William Jewell returned the favor by edging the Lions 76-67.

"We just shot the ball poorly," head coach Robert Corn said. "In the first game we shot 53 percent from the floor, and in the first half of the last game we shot 35 percent."

"Once we got down we would try to make a run at them, but William Jewell would make a big play to stop our run."

The William Jewell match-up was the first of two games the Lions played in the Missouri Western Hillyard Classic.

On Dec. 6 the Lions put up a big 101-

79 win against Avila College.

Corn said getting post players Matt Olson and Osiris Ricardo more involved in the offense was key to getting the team back on the winning side.

The 49 combined points Olson and Ricardo put in were the result of 26 Southern assists.

"We were passing and making the plays," Corn said. "It was very unselfish basketball."

One strength the team has found so far is its core of scorers.

"We've got four guys between 11-17 points," he said.

"Certainly, we don't have to depend on one guy to do all of the scoring on our team."

Though scoring underneath is strong, Corn says he hopes the team will improve on its long-range shooting.

"A big key is that we need to find some

consistency hitting perimeter shots," he said.

Southern (6-3) plays host to Rockhurst College (3-4) at 7 p.m. today in Young Gymnasium. The Hawks nipped the Lions 80-79 last year.

With MIAA play opening Jan. 3 at Lincoln University, Corn says most of the conference games will be a fight.

"I think the league is so balanced that it will be a challenge every night," he said.

Junior guard Mario Phillips says he thinks the team has been working steadily through the season.

"I think things have been going pretty well — we're finally starting to gel as a team," Phillips said.

Looking to conference play after the break, Phillips says the team will come together and put out a good effort.

"If we just come out and play hard, I think we're going to fare very well." □



Junior forward Allan Brown goes up for a shot during a recent home game. The Lions will be playing against Rockhurst College tonight in Young Gymnasium at 7 p.m.

TIM WILSON/The Chart

In an attempt to gain new insight into the lives of some of Joplin's less fortunate, a 'Chart' editor spent 24 hours as a resident of Soul's Harbor. Not only was a new insight found, but also a new perspective on life. Thanksgiving has been given a different definition.

Small glimpse of homelessness teaches larger lesson in living

By AARON DESLATTE
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Early on an overcast and all-together gloomy Thanksgiving morning, I stood at the entrance to Soul's Harbor, Joplin's privately owned and operated homeless shelter, with the intent of spending 24 hours within its walls.

I had made the decision to undertake the assignment months in advance and had felt no hesitation in following through with it until actually standing before the uninviting, chipped green storm door that served as the shelter's main entrance. The glass had been broken out of the door's frame and replaced with wax paper, making it impossible to see what might lay beyond the ominous entrance.

I tried to reach for the handle, but my hands, which had never questioned a command before, were suddenly compelled to turn on their master. Excuses for why I could not complete the assignment began to stream through my head. A Picasso of pretext was painting itself out before my eyes, and I knew that if

action were not taken before the masterpiece was complete, I would once again find myself at the folks' house for turkey day. In one fluid motion, my mutinous limbs reclaimed their allegiance, reached for the door, and propelled my reluctant body inside. The door slammed shut behind me, its echo reverberating through my ears. And like the closing of some medieval draw bridge, it served to somehow finalize my decision to stay. I couldn't turn back now.

DOCKING AT THE HARBOR

The first order of business was to check in. All residents of Soul's Harbor must report to the front desk and agree to a written contract that outlines the rules and code of conduct to be observed while staying at the mission.

The Rev. Dwight Watts, director of Soul's Harbor for the last 14 years, handled the paperwork. After 15 minutes, I found myself a "checked in" resident of the Harbor. I was assigned a bunk bed and given my list of chores to complete. Residents must complete their list in order to stay at the facility. Chore assignments



were handed out at random and included obvious household necessities such as taking out the trash and sweeping the floor. I was given toilet cleaning duty. Joy.

The Rev. Watts informed me that Soul's Harbor, which accommodates up to 70 residents, currently has 20 signed in. Residents will typically stay anywhere from one evening to several years.

"All these people's problems result from rebellion against their husbands, wives, or parents," he said. "Once they get over that, they can get back on the road."

As I made my way to the television room, I came across two residents who had been at the shelter for six months. They were on their way out to look for work. Amber and Brent are engaged and have extra motivation to get back on their feet. No wedding date has been set, but Amber said they hope to have a place of their own to stay before the vows.

Hoping to set a precedent for the future, Soul's Harbor and the Salvation Army collaborated on the Thanksgiving meal. The food was to be served at noon in the Salvation Army shelter, so that's where I headed.

For the meal, I was seated among 15-20 others at a table, some of whom I recognized from the Harbor and others I didn't. At first, I informed the volunteers handing out food that I was a reporter and would simply observe. I was greeted with varied degrees of disbelief. After the third offer, I reluctantly accepted a meal.

"Soul's Harbor is a necessity to some people," Watts said. "As long as they have money or friends, they won't let God in. Soul's Harbor is a place where you come to settle down, sit back, and wait for God."

After lunch, it became apparent that God was competing with football. In a Thanksgiving double-header, the Chicago Bears played Detroit while the Dallas Cowboys were paid a visit by the Tennessee Oilers. Four of the Harbor's residents and I began watching the first game in the mission's television room. As the games progressed, our number increased until the room reached its maximum seating capacity of 15. If the Almighty planned an appearance, it would have to be at halftime.

"Emmitt's hurt again. What else is new?" one new arrival mumbled unenthusiastically. As the game escalated in ferocity, so did the Cowboy jeers. I was obviously the only Dallas fan in the room. I kept my mouth shut.

Dinner was served promptly at 5:45 p.m. Residents who are late usually went to bed hungry. I was one of them. I arrived 10 minutes late and was denied my evening meal.

"There's a lot of rules to follow," said Roger, a former resident and current employee of the shelter. "Without them this place would be chaos."

'GOD TAKES CARE OF US'

At 6:45 p.m., chapel was held. Attendance is mandatory. Any resident who skips the service is subject to eviction from the shelter.

I sat in the back of the chapel with Hakeem, a follower of the Islamic faith. To my mild surprise, he was smiling.

"This guy cracks me up," Hakeem said as the pastor made his entrance.

The service opened in prayer, and the pastor began to tell us all what we had to be thankful for. Smothered chuckles from Hakeem drew the annoyed glare of his companion, Derrick, a devout Christian.

Midway through the sermon, the pastor seemed to realize he was losing his audience.

"Hey, I know living at the Harbor isn't the most pleasurable experience," he said. "If I could get my van running, I would have been out of here months ago."

Hakeem was losing it. Just when I became convinced he was going to burst into thunderous laughter, he somehow regained composure, much to Derrick's relief.

The pastor then asked for residents to give testimonies of what they were thankful for.

Derrick stood and began to tell the story of how he got to Joplin from Miami, Fla. Upon arriving in Joplin, he was detained by the Joplin Police Department for three days.

"I don't want to out and out call JPD racists, but if I wasn't homeless and African-American I don't think they would have held me for three days. But I'm thankful because God takes care of us," Derrick said with enthusiasm.

After Derrick's testimony, we were released.

"God takes care of us." The words had been spoken hours earlier by the Rev. Watts and then repeated by Derrick.

The words seemed to echo through my mind as I sat in the TV room watching *Jurassic Park* with Dave and Roger. Dave was a long-time resident of the shelter, but Roger had arrived only a week earlier. He was an alcoholic and having a rough time adjusting to life at Soul's Harbor. Alcohol is not permitted. Intoxicated residents are not allowed access to the shelter, and any resident seen entering a liquor store is subject to immediate eviction from the mission. Roger is coping.

"God takes care of us."

Roger, who arrived 20 minutes late for the service, said he could take care of himself.

After the movie, we were herded to the dorms and turned in for the night, in compliance with our 10:30 p.m. curfew.

THE MORNING AFTER

"The community could care less if a guy on the street has nowhere to go. The community could care less if a woman and her baby are sitting out in the cold." The words spoken by the Rev. Watts the day before were unshakable on Friday morning, as I stood on the street outside the shelter. They kept repeating like some annoying echo you generate in a split-second of stupidity and then are powerless to stop.

"There's people out there suffering, and the community doesn't care."

I was standing on the sidewalk with Dave, Roger, and Hakeem and began to take notice of the people passing by. I was unshaven and wearing the same clothes I walked in with. My grimy ball cap was keeping the hair out of my eyes. We were receiving a varied degree of glances from passing motorists ranging from mild apathy to blatant disgust.

Hakeem tried to lighten the atmosphere. "Do you think they're mad because they know I'm Muslim?" he asked no one in particular.

"Man, all they see is homeless and black," Dave responds. Nothing more was said. Nothing needed to be.

At 8:45 a.m. my ride arrived and I checked out of Soul's Harbor. I thanked the Rev. Watts for allowing me to stay and said my good-byes. I walked across the street and got in the car.

Later that Friday night, I was making the rounds downtown. I was clean shaven and my hair was brushed. Impulsively, I stopped at a gas station. I was hungry and in need of a few items. The friends who accompanied me waited in the car as I picked up what I needed. As I reached the register, I looked to the right and saw Roger. He was sitting at a booth with a 40-ounce beer bottle in front of him. He had been watching me, and when I made eye contact, he waved his hand. There was more in the gesture than a greeting. I had been an outsider who came into the Harbor for a day and then left. Sure, I had spent the night and eaten the food, but I had known the whole time I would be safe in my own home the next day. Roger didn't have the same assurances. It was impossible for me to realize what that felt like, and Roger knew it. But he smiled as if to thank me for trying. I waved back and left without saying a word. I couldn't eat a thing. The hunger coursing through my body had been replaced with shame. □



AARON DESLATTE/The Chart

Residents of Soul's Harbor, Joplin's only privately owned and operated homeless shelter, socialize outside the doors after breakfast on Friday, Nov. 28. The shelter is open 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.

Volunteers of all ages take opportunity to give during holiday

By KIKI COFFMAN
STAFF WRITER

Volunteers and Joplin's homeless showed up in droves for a Thanksgiving feast thrown by the Salvation Army and Soul's Harbor.

No one questioned the goodwill intended by the parties present, but many asked why so many volunteers turned up for the event this year.

Around 115 volunteers arrived at the Salvation Army to help in preparations and distribution for the Nov. 27 event. Capt. Mary

Thomas, head coordinator for the Salvation Army, couldn't recall having so many volunteers.

"We usually have between 50 and 60 volunteers, but 100 is a lot," Thomas said.

One reason for the noticeable difference in volunteer response may be linked to the first collaboration between Soul's Harbor and the Salvation Army to produce a greater service to the poor. This year marked the first in which the Salvation Army and Soul's Harbor united to promote Thanksgiving dinner.

Before this year both organiza-

tions were on similar missions, yet they worked alone. Now both sides acknowledge the benefits of blending their resources.

"February 1982 is the date that Soul's Harbor first started up, and it's taken us a while to get set up and get the right people working together so that we are running more smoothly now," said the Rev. Dwight Watts, director for Soul's Harbor. "But now that we're rolling, there isn't any stopping us."

"Teaming up with Soul's Harbor definitely increased the turnout in people served and people

involved," said Kevin Black, a Salvation Army caseworker.

While Soul's Harbor booked fewer beds than it did last year, more homeless showed up to the dinner given at the Salvation Army than before.

Some 300 needy people were fed a Thanksgiving meal at the Salvation Army this year, and 100 more people received take-out meals from the facility.

Instead of heading to the refrigerator to prepare a family feast, Leila Bamcoast, 67, volunteered to help serve needy people in the area a Thanksgiving meal. For

Bamcoast, volunteering was a type of memorial.

"The Lord took my dad home two years ago, and last year was kind of a mixed-up time," Bamcoast said. "My family had a difficult time last year, but this year we thought that since we don't have any family in Joplin, that [volunteering] would be a great thing to do, to bring us closer together."

"I think my dad would be happy to know that this is something we were involved in," she said.

Beth Cooley, 13, a resident of Texas, was among the plethora of

volunteers serving at the Thanksgiving feast. Cooley said her father thought it would be a good idea to volunteer while they were in town visiting relatives.

"I wanted to help people who didn't have anything to eat for Thanksgiving," Cooley said.

Thomas said forecasting next year's Thanksgiving dinner turnout was next to impossible, but that a team effort with Soul's Harbor was almost definite.

"The fellowship of being together with other people and not just on some street corner is important," she said. □